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REFORM

THERE are two very excellent reasons why the Reform movement should go on so *quietly* as it does. The first of these is, that the middle classes gained so much political power by the big bill of 1832 that they do not feel so anxious as they once were on the subject. The second is, that after all there is no real opposition to fight against, which makes the struggle naturally a lukewarm one. Statesmen of all parties are quite willing that the settlement of '32 should be revised if necessary; and it is dull work to combat with men who show no fight. What we are coming to is a mere bit of political business, not a great political struggle, which makes all the difference. So that unless somebody should broach a wholesale scheme calculated to turn the Constitution upside down, we may expect a perfectly humdrum and respectable bit of improvement only. For our own parts, we do not see why there *should* be any remarkable excitement of the kind which some people want to produce; nor why what Burns calls "the kettle of the kirk and state" should not be tinkered in a calm and business-like manner. A people that suffers is sure to make itself heard and felt pretty clearly, so there is even some reason to be satisfied with the present apathy. In most parts of Europe, you cannot talk about constitutional changes without lowering your voice.

We can, indeed, only fancy a man's taking up reform from one of two motives—the motive of improving the constitution for the constitution's sake, or of making changes for the sake of something beyond the change more or less clearly in view. And according as the inspiration is one of these, so will his conduct be. In the first case, he will alter with an eye to precedent; in the second, with an eye to theory. In the first, he will take what he finds done, and build upon it with an eye to the original plan; in the second, he has *carte blanche*, for he is not thinking of conserving the original but of making changes in it which may lead to something altogether different by and by. Now, we suspect that in the coming session, or whenever a real reform movement begins, it is between these two plans that England's choice will lie. And any one studying the speeches made every now and then on the subject, will observe that men are virtually ranging themselves into two classes according as they

lean to one or other of the tendencies we have described. In proportion as a man is fond of appealing to the historic development of our institutions, or to the "example of America," is he inclined to one or other of them. And in proportion as people prefer these, will they follow him or not. Perhaps it may be worth while to compare the schools, as a contribution to a subject now discussed with more or less zeal throughout the country.

Well, of this brace of methods of Reform—the historic or theoretical—the first has at least our own experience and practice on its side. It is the way of the country; the custom of the people. Though John Foster *did* call the British Constitution a "humbug" (much as Bumble called the law "a ass"), he must have acknowledged that it was a very practical kind of humbug. It has secured law, order, commerce, liberty, and empire; and though under every one of these headings one can see room for improvement, what is that to the great fact of their existence? That is the great matter, while, even supposing the Constitution to be not the cause of these advantages, it has been the condition under which they have arisen, and therefore alone could be defended as a good working machine. With fact on its side, it has a right to have its future regulated by its past: to be always considered as having won its claim to be preserved in every particular in which it cannot absolutely be shown to be injurious. The very age, too, of the Constitution goes for more than is generally thought. For what is important about any government is the *habits* it tends to form. The Continental ones generally blow up because the people have not got the habit of political freedom; while in our complex modern civilisation there seems no chance of their getting the opportunity of practising it. The very "barbarism" of the times when our Constitution formed itself, was an advantage to it—because an early state of society was not shaken by the rough turbulence of nascent freedom. At one time, for instance, there used to be riots in Westminster among the retainers of the members of Parliament. The very existence of occasional disturbances on the Continent is what reconciles townspeople to despotism. The world has got too quiet for this kind of thing; but, luckily with us, we got it over in times when they did not fear

it so much. So that, indeed, we owe the very leisure with which we discuss changes now to the antiquity of the institutions we want to improve. The burden of proof, then, is always, in this country, thrown on the man who proposes the change, for that there is some good in the institutions he wants to alter, is admitted by all, while his schemes for a time must be considered matters of uncertain results and consequences.

It would seem from this point of view that the true and consistent way of Reform here, is to proceed upon your last Reform—and reform it: to take the settlement of '32, for example, and examining specially where it erred and how things have changed since, to proceed to a new step in due course. This system gives a free range of improvement, and will enable us to weed the Constitution of pocket-boroughs and to enlarge the suffrage in conformity to the growth of the country, *without* cutting adrift the ties which bind us to the past and its precedents. But, on the other hand, it is impossible to study the speeches of some politicians without seeing that they have a totally different point of view. It is not so much in details as in spirit that they seem to wish to innovate. They do not say, here is the grievance and here the remedy; but they give general complaints of affairs in the lump—theorise on the whole question of change—and leave the special England of precedent and habit out of sight. Hence, for instance, their appeals to the example of America, which we may take as a fair specimen of the real and ultimate designs of their school.

Now, the real fault of this system is that it ignores the connection between the *social* and the *political* institutions of countries. In reality, these invariably act upon and determine each other, and it is precisely the ignoring of this fact which marks out the utopian in politics from the practical man. While the distribution of property and the general sentiment of Englishmen is what they are, these will be reflected in our institutions involuntarily, so that, in fact, we cannot be like the Americans, if we try. We cannot imitate their constitution, because we cannot attain its conditions; nor, on the other hand, could they imitate ours. This does not imply the least dislike for their institutions as theirs, and still less the least unfriendliness to them. Nor, indeed, would it be worth stating, if a notion did



THE PUBLIC SOUP KITCHEN
A PLEA FOR THE POOR.

not get about that, by assimilating the political establishments, we should assimilate the economical states of the two countries. These are fundamentally different, and for reasons as much beyond our control as reasons of geography or climate. We can never make land so cheap, nor wages so large, nor, on the other hand, can we afford to have so small an army and navy, as the case in America. This fact may be (and is) a good reason for encouraging emigration there; but it is no reason for imitating American politics here. And this the working classes ought to understand. The time is coming when the working class will have a greater voice in politics; and it is as well that they should know what politics can and cannot do for their benefit. If they throw in their sympathies with the steady course of English and national development, they can help those whom they join in carrying it out for the benefit of unborn generations; and individually will probably do more in politics than the shopkeepers elevated by the measure of '32. But if they take the wrong road of the two open to reformers—if they prefer theory to precedent, and expect that they can realise through merely political measures the advantages which it is beyond politics to confer, why in that case they will experience a disappointment proportionate to the ardour with which they set out.

SOUP KITCHEN.

THE author of the "Night-side of London" has graphically described the scenes of debauchery which are to be found at night at the various haunts of the depraved in this great metropolis. It is a fearful and shocking exposure; and one rises from the book with the reflection that this London is a very wicked place. But there is another side of the picture, which may be called the Bright Side of London, and it is this side which we wish to reveal in these articles and engravings descriptive and illustrative of the charitable institutions of the metropolis.

There are bad people enough in this vast city, but all are not bad, or the city could not exist. Polluted it is, we know, and contains a vast amount of drunkenness, debauchery, dishonesty, and all sorts of crime; but still there is, as we verily believe, more good than evil. Thousands and tens of thousands of honest families are there; and amidst all our Mammonism with its consequences—low cunning, cheating, adulterations, frauds, and a multitude of other evils—there are every day hundreds of thousands of good deeds which shine like lights in our naughty world, and charities and beneficences, public and private, which, if we could see them all, would prove that human nature is not as a whole so desperately wicked as some would make us think. The fact is, England is still a Christian country, with much imperfection, it may be, but still a Christian country; and by nothing is this more strongly manifested than by its public and private charities. We lately gave a sketch of a Refuge for the Homeless. That was one form of Christian benevolence; we now present our readers with another form in the "Soup Kitchen for the Poor." The institution which we visited, and now illustrate, is called the "North-West Public Soup Kitchen." Its location is 295, Euston Road, a few doors from where the Euston Road is cut by Tottenham Court Road. It was established in 1849, under the presidency of Lord Southampton, who lent the institution a considerable sum of money to start with, which is now in course of liquidation. Its object is to prepare and sell good cheap soup for the poor. That is its first object; not to give food indiscriminately, because it is felt that to do so would be to encourage idleness and pauperism—but to sell it at a low price; and then further to enable charitable people to distribute tickets for soup gratis to those who are entirely unable to buy. The way all this is managed is very simple. Those who have money come to the kitchen and buy at the price of 2d. per quart, a small roll of bread included; and for the benefit of the very poor, tickets are sold to any one who may choose to buy at the rate of 5s. for two dozen quart tickets, or 2s. 6d. for two dozen pint tickets. These tickets are given away by the purchaser to persons known to be distressed. Each of these tickets will purchase a small loaf of bread in addition to the soup. The cost of the soup is not quite double the amount that it is sold for, and the deficiency is made up by subscriptions and donations. Those who prefer it, may have 2lbs. of rice-milk with bread, instead of a quart of soup. There are two descriptions of soup prepared, beef-soup and peas-soup, both of which are very good, as we can testify, having tasted them both. They are not such soups as you get at the Trafalgar or the Star and Garter, but for the purpose and the consumers, they are better. And we have no hesitation in affirming that, whilst the soup kitchen is open, no man who can muster 2d. per diem need starve. And as a proof that the poor people like it, we need only notice the fact that, last season, no less than 66,482 pence were received over the counter, in addition to the tickets which were sold for gratuitous distribution. The soup is all genuine—the beef-soup made chiefly from ox head, and the peas-soup of good pork and the best peas. Indeed, there is no temptation here to shove questionable ingredients into the copper, as no one would get a penny by so doing. We have all heard of sausage manufacturers of the low sort and their doings—how "alarming symptoms" of cats and horseflesh have been detected under "cunningly devised gray pepper;" and, generally, there is strong reason to fear that very questionable meat, served up in a variety of shapes, is sold to the poor. It would be no common advantage, then, if soup-kitchens were opened merely to sell a really good and genuine article, even though the price were not reduced; but here you have really capital food at about half the cost price.

Sometimes, in the coldest part of winter, as much as 140 gallons, or 1,120 pints of soup a day, are disposed of; and the illustration which accompanies this article is not at all an exaggeration of the scene which the soup-kitchen presents on such occasions. Men, women, and children, of all sorts, of the poorer class, may be seen here. Not only cadgers and beggars, but porters, carters, errand-boys, labourers—in short, all who earn nothing, or whose earnings are small enough for their expenses in summer, and in winter not adequate for their wants. That young fellow with his jug in the fore-ground of the picture has come for a quart to take home. A great deal of the soup and rice-milk is consumed off the premises. The gentleman in the doorway is giving away a ticket—but here let us say that most of the tickets are given away, not in the doorway, but in the purchaser's own neighbourhood—to his neighbours, in fact, whose necessities he is acquainted with. Sometimes a poor disconsolate refugee slides in. We think we discerned one of this class when we were there. He was a foreigner clearly; and his coat, though worn threadbare, and his hat, though the nap was nearly all gone, still showed some remains of a style that told us that the wearer had seen better days. Another tall thin man, in shabby-genteel clothes, with his surcoat buttoned close up, in the hope of concealing the too-apparent fact that he had no shirt, and his trousers strapped down to conceal some other defect or want, we would bet a trifle had also been once in a higher position. That red, blotched face, opened up to us a sad tale of misery, brought on by drunkenness; we guessed that he had been a clerk in some private mercantile office—that he took to drinking, broke his wife's heart, starved his children, or perhaps they have been taken away by his wife's relations; and he, after repeated assistance and attempts to reclaim him, is as you see him here. A pint of soup was his ration, price 1½d., which he ate behind the door quickly, and then disappeared. A sharp-looking, keen-eyed boy also attracted our notice. He was about fourteen, had on a man's dress-coat, and was shirtless, stockingless, and shoeless. He also ate up his pint of soup, and quickly rushed out again into the great world—"a picker up of unconsidered trifles," we should say. But even he must not starve. These two last, however, were exceptions. Most of the people that we saw were poor people, with no particular marks of vice about them.

In addition, however, to the miscellaneous crowd that come to eat on

the premises or to take soup home "in their own jugs," there is, we understand, a large number of persons who are of quite a different character—patient, quiet, unobtrusive people, who are hard-pressed by temporary want, and are too proud to beg, and who have to be sought out. Many hundreds of these are relieved by means of the purchased tickets by pious, excellent women, of whom there are thousands in London who spend the best part of their lives (and may Heaven bless them for it!) in hunting out and relieving the deserving poor.

In conclusion, let us hint to our readers that Christmas is coming, and make them acquainted with a fact which we are sure many will be glad to know—that this institution, if it has the means, provides every year five hundred poor persons with a gratuitous dinner on Christmas-day. We have made up our minds that one at least of that 500 shall be our guest.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE Minister of Finance has made a roséate report of the financial condition of the country. From this it appears that the budget of 1856 exhibited a probable surplus of 106 millions; and, when the accounts were finally made up, the result proved that the calculations of the Minister were surpassed, as the definitive excess was 112 millions. The budget of 1857 anticipated a disposable surplus of twenty millions. The accounts were closed on the 31st of August last; and, the receipts and expenditure having been ascertained nearly to a certainty, the excess of receipts will be, not twenty, but thirty-six millions at least. The Minister next comes to the budget of 1858, voted with a surplus of twenty millions; and he states that the realised receipts, up to this time, exceed by seventy-five millions the anticipated resources. As to the service of 1859, which has not yet commenced, and for which an excess of eight millions is anticipated, the Minister shows that this calculation, far from being diminished, will, on the contrary, be more than realised by the revenue receivable in 1858. This already exceeds, by more than twenty-two millions, the estimates which served for its basis. The report finally states that the preparatory calculations for 1860 indicate resources sufficient for the development of many important branches of the public service, for providing a new increase in the salaries of the minor employes and of the magistracy (always the police!), and still leave a sum of twenty millions available for the purposes of the Sinking Fund.

The cares of empire would seem to sit lightly on the brow of Napoleon III., for scarce had he come back from hunting in the forest of Compiègne than he was off to those of Fontainebleau, but is now returned to the Tuileries. There is some talk about his reviving the "Eglinton Tournament."

The Emperor received on Sunday, at a solemn audience, his Excellency M. Mon, who came to present his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Queen of Spain and of the Duchess Regent of Parma to the Court of the Tuileries.

SPAIN.

LETTERS from Tangiers announce that the semi-official mediation of England, and the interview of the Spanish admiral with the Morocco authorities, have not terminated the pending differences. The Emperor himself has been referred to.

PRUSSIA.

THE new Prussian chambers are to meet on the 12th of January, being within three days of the time fixed by the constitution for their assembling after an election. The new elections, to supply the vacancies from the members having been chosen by more than one constituency, are now going forward, but the result will not alter to any appreciable extent the proportions of parties as they have already been announced.

RUSSIA.

THE nobles of Moscow still exhibit no inclination to emancipate their serfs without receiving full indemnification, and they do not attempt to conceal their sentiments from the Imperial authorities. The nobles hold secret convocations, they are told and publicly decry the new-fangled ideas which have been introduced into Russia.

The Dowager Empress has been taken seriously ill. All the members of the Imperial family absent from St. Petersburg have been apprised of the Empress's condition by telegraph.

The "Northern Bee," in a leading article respecting the Ionian Islands, says:—"It is necessary for England to retain possession of Corfu, on account of its importance as a station in the Adriatic. The other Ionian Islands could be given up to Greece, with the option left to the inhabitants of Corfu to emigrate within a stated time."

ITALY.

THE Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, accompanied by the Grand Duchess and their son, arrived at Villafraanca on the 6th instant, in the Russian war-ship *Retzian*, followed by the frigates *Bayan* and *Polkan*. As soon as the *Retzian* had cast anchor in the roads a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the fort of Villafraanca, and was answered by the *Bayan*, gun for gun. The Intendant, General de la Marmora, the Russian Consul at Nice, and the Russian Vice-consul at Villafraanca, went on board the *Retzian* to salute the august visitors. At noon their Imperial Highnesses disembarked, the three Russian ships firing salves of artillery, while the bands played national airs. Carriages were in waiting to convey them to Nice, to which place they were escorted by a picket of Sardinian carabinieri.

The King of Sardinia has issued a decree, ordering the usual annual levy of 250 men for the Royal navy.

It does not appear that there has been any Circular Note of the Sardinian Government in reference to the warlike intentions attributed to it. But it is said that M. de Cavour has verbally offered an explanation to the representatives of the various Powers at Turin.

The students lately arrested at Pavia on a charge of high treason have been unconditionally set at liberty by order of the Archduke Maximilian.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Porte has obtained the most complete success in its Syrian expedition. Ismael Bey has been abandoned by all his people, and given up by the inhabitants of a village where he had taken refuge.

The island of Candia is still agitated, and the Turkish Government are sending reinforcements, in order to suppress any insurrection that may be attempted.

A very serious step is said to have been taken by M. Sabbatier, the French Commissioner at Jeddah. From investigation, he felt convinced that the principal instigator of the assassinations was the governor himself, Namiek Pacha. "Acting on that conviction, M. Sabbatier and the captain of the English frigate, accompanied by a detachment of French and English sailors, went to the governor's palace, and arrested him in the midst of his staff. No resistance was offered to this bold proceeding. Namiek Pacha was conveyed on board the *Duchayla*, where he is detained a prisoner, until instructions are received from the French government."

AMERICA.

THE American Government was about to despatch all the war vessels that can be spared to Mexico, "to protect the interests of the United States."

The mercantile classes in New York are greatly opposed to the increase of the tariff.

The Jews of Philadelphia recently memorialised the President to interfere in the case of the boy Mortara. The Secretary of State, General Cass, replied that it is the settled policy of the United States to abstain from all interference in the internal concerns of any other country.

From Columbia, South Carolina, we learn that the grand jury find no bill against the crew of the slave *Echo*. When the prisoners moved for their discharge, the question of the constitutionality of the Act declaring the slave trade piracy would come up for argument.

At New Orleans, a total of 4,850 deaths by yellow fever from June 27th to November 21st is recorded. The greatest number of deaths in any single week was 171, for the week ending September 19th. At 4 was the crisis of the epidemic. Afterwards it declined rapidly.

Secretary Cobb was to leave the Treasury, and would probably take the mission to London.

A number of Nicaraguan adventurers had landed about forty miles from San Juan del Sud, and others were on their way.

It is reported that the Kansas Indians had made discoveries of platina, but refused to tell where.

CHINA.

THE forces of the Chinese rebels appear to have increased in number and in audacity. The town of Nankin is surrounded, and the government of Peking threatened by the revolt.

Its financial resources being much exhausted, the government becomes more conciliatory towards foreigners. On this account it has recalled the governor of Canton, and has allowed the importation of opium under certain regulations. Canton is perfectly quiet, and trade revived. Foreign missionaries are taking up their abodes in various parts of the city and suburbs, and Europeans walk the streets with impunity.

Lord Elgin's negotiations at Shanghai have proved satisfactory.

The death of the Emperor of Japan is reported.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE "New York Times" has some speculations and hints, as to semi-authoritative, as to the President's forthcoming message:—

"There is much suspicion in official circles that England, France, Spain, are getting treacherous towards us with reference to Central American and Mexican affairs; and it is this suspicion, probably, which has determined the President, in his forthcoming Message, to inform these Governments that the Monroe doctrine is to be vindicated."

"The President's message is finally made up so far as it relates to foreign affairs, with the exception of the paragraph relating to the new treaty with Japan, which has not yet arrived, although official advices of its conclusion were received a fortnight ago."

"The message takes bold and earnest ground with reference to Mexican relations. The President will give warm expressions of sympathy with the Liberals, doubtless with the purpose of affording them the moral support which they have asked at the hands of the United States, and which they certainly deserve."

"I do not understand that he will at present make any recommendation looking to intervention by the United States in the affairs of Mexico; but I am satisfied that he will suggest nothing that can interfere, in the future, with the establishment of the Protectorate, if that shall be decided upon as the most practical means of saving Mexico from the fatal effects of a chronic revolution."

"The Monroe doctrine, I have reason to believe, will be distinctly re-affirmed in the Message, by very decided declarations that the United States cannot tolerate European intervention in the affairs of Central America, Mexico, or Cuba. The Congress Committee on Foreign Relations will find a basis for important and startling recommendations, if they think proper to accept and follow the hints which the document will give them. Nothing the Message will be startling in itself, or strive to create 'sensation'; but his expression of views on foreign affairs will be quietly significant and suggestive."

"In regard to the tariff, Mr. Buchanan declares that his views have not changed since the day when himself and Silas Wright battled side by side in the Senate Chamber. He still maintains that the tariff should be a revenue measure—that it should be such as will secure revenue enough to defray the expenses of the Government, and that it should be so arranged as to give incidental protection to home manufactures. He sees, now, that the revenue from Customs is entirely inadequate to the necessities of the Treasury—that the government has been carried on upon borrowed money, and that many branches of industry are prostrated seriously for want of protection against foreign competition, and I am well satisfied that he will recommend that the tariff be modified so as to accomplish the ends above enumerated."

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A JOURNALIST.

A GENTLEMAN whose name appears to have been Edwin J. Dickens, was found dead in his room in the American Hotel, Jersey City, on the 21st of November. Two letters, in female handwriting, were found on his person, addressed to "E. J. Dickens," with the signature torn off. They are supposed to have been written in England by an actress, and one of them desired him to meet her at the theatre. Vials containing laudanum and potassium were found in his room. The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased came to his death by taking poison."

In a letter which the unhappy gentleman addressed to a New York paper he describes himself as having been "a Parliamentary condenser and theatrical critic to the 'London Daily News,' contributor of leading literary articles, and book reviews to the 'Manchester Guardian,' sole editor of the 'Melbourne Argus,' co-editor of the 'Melbourne Herald,' sole editor and manager of the 'Geelong Spirit of the Age,' general contributor, book reviewer, and theatrical critic to the 'John Bull,' 'Edinburgh,' and 'Press'—all first-class London weeklies."

The "New York Tribune" says:—"Mr. Dickens was a distant relative of Charles Dickens, the famous author, and he represented that he was proprietor of the London 'Standard.' He arrived in this country six weeks ago in the ship Isaac Bell. During the voyage it was their fortune to fall in with the British ship *Claude*, in a sinking condition, to save her captain and officers from the wreck. On arriving in New York, Mr. Dickens set on foot a subscription for the benefit of the survivors of the *Claude*, and also to reward the crew of the *Isaac Bell*. To this noble himself contributed a handsome amount. So far as we could learn, he came here with a loan purse, and without letters of introduction. He applied for employment, and received several commissions from this as well as from other journals. The article which he engaged to write for the 'Tribune' was not furnished, and we lost sight of him for some time. But last Tuesday afternoon he called upon us and remained until after four o'clock, apparently in excellent health and spirits, and earnestly desirous of acquiring information in regard to this country. His conversation during his visit was not indicative of any morbid melancholy, but rather the contrary. The reason which he assigned for his failure to furnish the articles ordered was, that he had accidentally taken a cyanide of potassium, which nearly cost him his life. He said that this was the second time he had made this almost fatal mistake."

That Mr. Dickens died by his own hand appears very doubtful. When he went to the American Hotel at Jersey City, he took with him a change of clothes, evidently with the intention of remaining there several days. He sat down in the sitting-room, and sent a boy to purchase an evening newspaper, which he read, and then went to bed. He had placed a doo shirt upon a chair, as if for use the following morning, folded up his clothes carefully, and put his shoes outside the door to be cleaned. It seems that he had been in the habit of using potassium as a remedy for pleurisy.

THE CAREER OF WELLINGTON GUERSEY.—Wellington Greville Guersy, alias Wellington Hubert Guersy, tried this week for stealing from the library of the Colonial Office a copy of the Ionian despatches, by no means an ordinary individual. He began life as a shop-keeper, and failed, in business on his own account. Coming to London, he took up his residence in the classic regions of Soho, supporting himself by contributions to the press, and the management of concerts. He composed, too, some of the most popular of the "Nigger" songs. He then became manager of the Panopticon, in Leicester Square, and continued in that capacity until he was gazetted a quartermaster in the Crimean Transport Corps. Having speedily mastered the Turkish language, he was transferred to the Turkish Contingent, being appointed deputy-assistant quartermaster-general, and afterwards provost-marshal. His rencontre in the churchyard at Kertch, where he displayed some excellent revolver-practice upon some Turks who were pillaging, will still be in the memory of our readers. His next public appearance was in a rifle-match at Paris, when he thoroughly beat the first marksman of the whole French army. He thereupon challenged the world as a rifle-shot, but was left "all alone in his glory." He now undertook to hand over to one of the South American republics, the hand of the desperadoes of our Foreign legations. After performing this generous service, he was commissioned to build some forts in South America. He is now in England to purchase gunboats and coals for, we believe, the Brazilian government.—*Newcastle Chronicle*.

AMERICAN LIVE STOCK.—Mr. de Cordova, a Texas land-agent, in a book recently published, asserts that "a cow can be raised in Texas at less cost than a child in any other place in the United States." Children, as well as cows, are "raised" in Texas with more facility and success than elsewhere—the births being more numerous in proportion to the population, and the mortality lighter. In fact, the climate is so "distressingly healthy," both for children and adults, that no doctor need apply. Mr. de Cordova should have completed the picture by giving the comparative statistics of the cost of a Texan child and a Connecticut chicken.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

ALL reports from India confirm the news that the Queen's proclamation has given great satisfaction. Splendid fêtes were given at Calcutta on the 9th of November. The East India Company's stocks were rising, and trade was reviving, though communication with the interior of India was still difficult.

The following telegraphic message was received at the India House on Tuesday:—

"Oude."

"On the 20th of October, Beni Madho, with 20,000 men, made a determined attack on our force at Poorwa. The rebels were beaten off, and lost two guns. No casualty among the Europeans. On the 30th of October, the rebels under Mehudoo Hoos in were defeated near Sahargunge, losing five guns and one elephant. No loss on our side. On the 3rd of November Brigadier Wetherill took the fort of Rampore Kupa by assault, and found five guns in it. He lost thirty men; the loss of the rebels was severe. On the 9th of November Brigadier Evelyn took the fort of Amethy. Two Europeans were killed. The fort of Amethy was surrendered by Coll Madhoo Singh on the 9th of November, and on the 11th of November was occupied by our troops. Sixteen guns found; more believed to be in the fort.

"CENTRAL INDIA."

"On the 31st of October and 1st of November Tantia Topee and his followers, without guns, but with a number of elephants, crossed the Nerbudda, forty miles up stream from Hoshungabad, and are believed to be making towards the Devan. They were last heard of as crossing the Chundwarra Hills. They have plenty of money, but are short of ammunition. General Michel was at Hoshungabad on the 7th, and Brigadier Parke expected there on the 8th. The resident at Hyderabad and the Commissioner of Nagpore are watching the rebels, and are prepared.

"BENGAL."

"Nothing particular has occurred during the last fortnight. The rebels, it is expected, will try to break away, and make in the direction of Minapore. A mutiny is said to have occurred in the rebel camp. Umur Singh is reported to have fled, and Durkishen Singh to have been killed."

A supplementary message gives us some further intelligence of Tantia Topee's movements:—

"The rebel force under Tantia Topee remained in the Sindwara districts of the Nagpore province for four or five days. On the 8th of November they passed twenty-five miles south-east of Baitool, and continued their course *via* Sautnair and Meil Ghaut towards Boorhaunpore. On the 11th they crossed the Taptree River and proceeded in the direction of Manirod and Dhar to the Nerbudda. They reached Acharpore, on the south bank of the Nerbudda, on the 21st. All the forts on the north bank of this river are guarded. The British forces are in close pursuit. Troops have been concentrated at Sindwa and Chupra to prevent the enemy entering Candeish. The Bhel chiefs are harassing Tantia Topee's flank. The feeling of the population of Candeish is excellent. The Banda Nawab has left the rebel camp, and is on his way to Major-General Michel. Adil Mahomed and his party have separated from Tantia Topee, and are now with Maun Singh, near Seronge, pursued by the columns under Brigadiers Lockhart and Smith.

"Maun Singh was surprised on the 11th at Koondige by Brigadier Smith, and defeated with a loss of 600 men."

AUSTRIA AND FRANCE.—This is the spirit in which Austrian papers reply to the attacks of the French journals:—"Although the unpleasant impression produced by the abuse of power in the affair of the Charles de Georges has not been removed, and although a Danes's sword is now hanging over the head of one of the most celebrated men in France, the scepticisms of a Cabinet whose policy is 'the right of the stronger,' dare to heap abuse on another Government. Dispassionate persons will not accuse Austria of coveting the property of her neighbours, and they will hardly blame her for displaying a determination to permit her rightful possessions to be taken from her. The ruler over Austria has magnanimously opened the prison doors of all those political offenders who have sued for mercy; he has permitted hundreds of exiles to return to their friends, and he has removed those impediments to free communication which had been raised up by distrust and suspicion. In Austria no one vanishes suddenly from the family circle, and no one is cast without trial into 'oubliettes' (dungeons in which people, being entirely cut off from communication with the outer world, are speedily forgotten) beyond the frontiers. But who can say how many persons have perished under the scorching sun of Guiana or in the deserts of Africa? The French publicists were wrong when they spoke so loudly of humanity and civilisation, and provoked a comparison between the French and Austrian systems. Notwithstanding the rhodomontades of the 'journalist demi-monde' on the banks of the Seine, it is not to be feared that the French will carry all before them. Only a desperate player stakes his all on a single card, and an imperial crown is too valuable a treasure to be lightly risked. The fortune of war has already shattered more brilliant and more proudly-worn diadems."

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND COOLIE IMMIGRATION.—The French Government have invited the presence of English naval officers, who have served on the African coast, in order to obtain their information and evidence upon the subject of the free emigration of negroes. It is stated also that Sir F. Rogers, one of Her Majesty's commissioners for emigration, is about to proceed to Paris, and, with Lord Cowley's assistance, will endeavour to frame some convention by which the colonies of France may obtain a supply of coolies fully protected. According to the "Independence Belge," a French ship, laden with "free blacks," has been captured by an English cruiser, and compelled to put the negroes on shore; and the President of the Republic of Liberia, having prohibited a French captain from recruiting negroes on his little territory, has placed himself under the protection of the English and Americans. The "Fresse," referring to this matter, says:—"We are assured that there really has been a conflict provoked by the seizure of a French vessel, but that it is now arranged."

ROYAL IMPERTINENCE.—The Czar, desiring to recompense a great service rendered by a petty functionary, invited him and his wife to pass a few days at the palace of Peterhof. The latter, in order to appear of a rank which she does not possess, pledged her husband's salary for three years to raise a sum to buy rich dresses; she was thus able to appear in a new toilette every morning and evening. The Empress, hearing what she had done, resolved to give her a lesson, and on the day of departure said: "Do you know, madame, that you are greatly to be pitied for having such a bad dressmaker? She cannot evidently make a dress to fit you, since you are obliged to change so often."—*Journal Amusant.*

THE POPULATION OF ROME.—A census of the population of Rome has been published, from which it appears that the total of the inhabitants is 189,357, a figure at which this petrified or stereotyped town has remained (very nearly) for the last 250 years, without any symptom of that progressive development which had enlarged, enriched, and enlightened every other European capital. In the muster-roll there are 34 bishops, 1,331 secular priests, 2,404 monks, 1,872 friars, 2,700 nuns, 850 seminary students. Last year the figure was 179,952, but the slight increase is made up by counting this year 854 "heretics, Turks, infidels, and Jews," who are permitted to live outside the Ghetto, and were never included before in the census; there is no mention of what the Ghetto itself holds, but it is supposed to lodge about 5,000 children of Israel.

MELANCHOLY ADVENTURES OF A PETITION.—A St. Petersburg letter says:—"The coast of the Crimea was lately the scene of a very singular adventure. On the 1st of November a small boat was driven ashore, about twenty miles from Yalta. This boat contained four persons, two men and two women, who, when found, scarcely showed any signs of life. One of the females, according to the account she gave of herself when restored to animation, is the wife of an officer of artillery in garrison at Anapa, on the western coast of the Caucasus. Having heard that the Grand Duke Michael was to pass at some distance from the town, she resolved to place herself in his way in order to present a petition to him. For that purpose she embarked with a female servant on board a small sailing boat, having two men to manage it, in order to cross over to a spot where she could land and get near the Prince. Instead, however, of effecting the passage in a few hours, the boat was driven out to sea, and tossed about for six days and nights. The sufferings of the four persons from hunger, and from the fear of perishing in their small boat, may be imagined, but at length they were driven on shore on the coast of the Crimea where they were hospitably received. When the wife of the officer had sufficiently recovered, the means of returning to Anapa were placed at her disposal, but hearing that the Grand Duke was to pass through Simpheropol she proceeded thither, but was unfortunately enough to miss him by a few hours, and she was eventually compelled to return to Anapa, without accomplishing the object for which she had undergone such severe suffering."

IRELAND.

DEATH IN THE THEATRE.—A clown, attached to an equestrian troop, was performing in Dublin, and in order to give additional attraction on his "benefit night," announced his intention of performing an unusual and extraordinary feat. This consisted in jumping from the gallery of the Music-hall, temporarily erected upon a circus, into the centre of the arena, falling three hundred times in the air during his descent. For the purpose of receiving him, a large quilt was held by twelve men in the arena, and a mattress laid on the ground beneath. These precautions, however, proved of no avail. The unfortunate man sprang from his place in the gallery, but instead of turning over three times and alighting on his feet, he only turned two-and-a-half times, and fell heavily on his head. The mattress, unable to break the force of such a fall, simply diverted the fracture from the skull to the spine. The poor man lay quite motionless, and many people, shocked with the conviction that he was killed, hurriedly left the place. The fall, however, was not instantly fatal. The poor fellow was carried out from the theatre still breathing, though insensible, and died within a short time afterwards.

THE REV. MR. NIXON.—The Rev. Mr. Nixon, who was shot in the face by two Irish Ribbonmen, has so far recovered that he has travelled from his own residence up to Dublin; though he is considerably disfigured by the wound. Two men are lodged in Letchmenny county jail, charged with the attempt to murder Mr. Nixon.

SCOTLAND.

LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE.—Two men left Dunair, Skye, Hebrides, in a boat, and landed on an uninhabited island to shoot. They left their boat close by a rock, and on their return found it shattered to pieces by the surf. Having no provisions with them, they were dismayed. They contrived to secure the boat's sail, along with some pieces of the wreck, and, having erected a sort of tent, they kindled a fire by means of some powder they had with them. It happened that the oars of the boat were drifted ashore on the following day, near the place where one of the men resided; and having been recognised by his wife, two boats instantly put out in search of the missing men; they were discovered in a very exhausted state, having been without food or drink for about sixty hours.

A DEEPERATE LEAP.—While a posse of water-bailiffs were perambulating the Tweed, near Ladykirk, on the night of Thursday week, they started two men engaged in fishing. One of the poachers, rather than be caught, leaped from the bank headlong into the foaming torrent of the Tweed, which was in a state of high flood. Encumbered as he was with an oilskin coat, he swam out, but before he could reach the opposite bank he was carried to Westford Dyke, a distance of about 500 yards, approaching which he gave utterance to despairing cries. The bailiffs from the bank called him to land, thinking he was sinking. However, he went over the dyke, and he did not make land until he came to Northam Bridge—which is fully half a mile from where he took the water—and got off.

THE PROVINCES.

TOWN AND GOWN.—Several undergraduates of Trinity College, Cambridge, have been fined for assaulting a policeman in the execution of his duty. This is not the first case, and the mayor, with the approbation of the University authorities, determined to check the practice. The undergraduates filled the court and made a great disturbance. The magistrates had to be escorted home by the police, and the mayor was compelled by the menaces of the crowd of gowmsmen to take refuge in Catherine College.

LOVE AND PERJURY.—At St. Helens, near Liverpool, Mary Foster has been committed for trial on the charge of perjury. In order to save her sweetheart, William Foster, from a charge of poisoning, she swore that he was in her company from eleven till three on the night in question, and this was proved to be untrue.

ACCOMPLISHED.—The grand jury for the city of York have returned a true bill for misdemeanour against Mr. Metcalfe, the recent proprietor of Acomb House Retreat, for an assault upon Mrs. Turner, who was under his treatment for insanity. A warrant was obtained for the apprehension of Mr. Metcalfe, who was abroad, and he is to be held to bail on his own recognisance of £100.

ANOTHER DEEPERATE POACHING AFFAIR.—As Hepworth, as one of the under-keepers of Sir L. Pilkington, Bart., of Chevet Hall, near Wakefield, was passing along a part of the estate, he saw four men ferreting for rabbits. He gave information to the head-keeper, who, with Hepworth and two other assistants, went to meet the poachers. Two of the latter, who were armed with guns, took to their heels; the others were brought to bay. They made a desperate attack upon the gamekeepers, and being armed with small heavy spades and bludgeons, they inflicted some desperate wounds on the keepers; eventually, however, the poachers were overcome, and conveyed to Chevet Hall. Both poachers and keepers appeared in court with their heads bandaged, showing the desperate nature of the conflict which had taken place. A ferret, nets, and a couple of rabbits were found in the possession of the prisoners, who were committed for trial.

DARING BURGLARY.—About one o'clock on Friday morning, the dwelling-house of Mrs. Mary Ainger, a widow lady, who carried on the business of farmer at Little Bentley, in Essex, was entered by two strange men, who placed a ladder against the bed-room window, and forced it open with a plough coulter. Covering Mrs. Ainger's face with a pillow to prevent her giving any alarm, they lighted a candle and searched the bed for money, which they found secreted in her purse; there was one £10 note, three £5 notes (the number of the notes and the banks being unknown), and £12 in gold and silver. With this booty they made off, before a female servant, who had been aroused by their entrance, could return with assistance from the neighbours.

SINGULAR DISAPPEARANCE AND ESCAPE.—The "Newcastle Chronicle" says, that while Benjamin Oyston, employed on Mr. Newby's farm, at Halkarth, was engaged with a two-horse cart, in a turnip field, the earth opened, and the first horse immediately disappeared in the chasm! The man, who was riding on the cart, jumped off, seized the second horse by the head, and by this means prevented it following its companion. The harness of the first horse held for some time, but when it gave way, the animal disappeared. Oyston shouted for assistance, and after some little time, Mr. Newby's nephew arrived at the spot, and having himself flung on the ground, looked into the rent in the earth, to see what had become of the horse. This was rather a dangerous experiment, as soon appeared; for when he got up the ground where he had been lying gave way, and was completely swallowed up. Coal has been worked under the farm, and there cannot be the slightest doubt that the accident is owing to the operations of the miners. A light was let down into the chasm by a rope, but after being lowered for about ten fathoms it was (owing to the foul air) extinguished.

PRESENTATION OF A GOOD-CONDUCT MEDAL.—At the cavalry depot at Maidstone on Friday week, the medal and gratuity of £5 were presented to Michael Doogan, a private in the 12th Royal Lancers, for twenty-two years' good conduct as a soldier. Doogan entered the army at a very early age, and went to India as a private in the 15th Hussars. He afterwards volunteered to the 12th Lancers, in which regiment he has continued ever since. He served a good many years in India, and also in the Crimea. A general parade was ordered to grace the presentation. A square having been formed, the warrant of the Secretary-for-War was read, and then Doogan was called from the ranks, and Captain Miller (the adjutant) placed the medal on his breast, and handed him the gratuity. The whole of the troops then marched past the commanding officer, and the proceedings terminated.

CHARGE OF SCUTTLEING A SHIP.—John Fawcett, carpenter of the Jane Thompson, of Sunderland, was brought before the South Shields magistrates, last week, on the charge of attempting to sink that vessel by boring holes in her. A good deal of evidence was taken, but the case was not cleared up. It was proved that in addition to some holes discovered in the after part of the ship, which it was alleged were made by the prisoner, there were a number of holes in the port bow, which must have been bored before the vessel left the Wear, and before she took in her cargo. The mate of the vessel said that when he went to sea with the vessel, on the 8th of October, he expected that he should have a good deal of pumping. Both pumps were kept going from the time that they left the harbour until they abandoned the vessel. The vessel made an inch-and-a-half of water in twenty minutes; and the crew were completely worn out with pumping before they deserted the vessel. The captain was the last man on board ship. He might have been from seven to eight minutes on the deck after all the crew were in the boat. He did not know what the captain was doing so long on board the ship after they all got into the boat; and the crew murmured, as there was some danger of the boat being stove against the side of the ship. He had seen the owner and master in the hold of the vessel before she left the port, but he did not think it strange, as he was a man that was constantly employed, and would black the vessel or do any dirty work. The prisoner was committed for trial, but bail was taken for his appearance. The Jane Thompson was insured for a considerable sum in the Tyne clubs.

SHOOTING A SWEETHEART.—Elijah Knowles, a miner, of Stourbridge, sweetheated with Eliza Slater, a nail-maker. They quarrelled. He endeavoured to make it up; she refused; and he then said, "If you don't have me, I'll make you so as no one else shall; I'll make a second Kate's Hill job of it." Kate's Hill is a place where another man killed his sweetheart, and was hung for so doing. Accordingly, Knowles went to the shop where Eliza was employed, put the muzzle of a gun in at the door, and fired at her. The charge, missing the girl, struck the wall behind her; but she was so shocked, that she remained senseless and in hysterics for two days. Knowles has been committed for trial, charged with attempt to murder.

THE ANDOVER MURDER.

SOME new evidence of a remarkable character has been adduced in the Andover murder case. One witness, a woman-servant, deposed that she saw Mr. and Mrs. Banks going home about half-past ten o'clock on the night of the murder. They were talking loud, as if quarrelling. (The murder is supposed to have been committed at ten o'clock, when cries were heard near where Mr. Parsons's body was afterwards found.)

Francis Webb, an assistant to Mr. Parsons in his drapery business, said that on the 21st of October Mrs. Banks came to the shop, and asked to see some dresses, which, however, she did not select from, but bought a scarf for 2s. 6d. He missed one of the dresses; Mrs. Banks was stopped, and it was found concealed under her shawl. She was in great distress at this discovery, declared that it was a mistake, and begged that no notice might be taken of it. Mr. Parsons seems to have so far consented, that he allowed her to go away unmolested. But Mrs. Banks's anxiety was not allayed. She met this witness, Webb, in the market-place the same evening, gave him a shilling, and promised him half-a-sovereign if he would say nothing about it. Some days after, she told him that all the town had heard about the affair, through Mr. Parsons's servants. She said she would send her husband down to Mr. Parsons, and hoped he would flatly deny the rumour. Mrs. Banks asked Webb to tell Parsons this, and meet her in the evening on the Salisbury Road, and bring her an answer. The answer returned by Parsons was to the effect that he should make no stir about the matter, but would not deny the theft, if questioned. Mrs. Banks was not satisfied. She declared that Mr. Parsons must deny it; and Webb was to go back and ask him to meet her at "the wharf;" she should never forget it if he would do so. Webb returned with this message; but his master refused to go. After this Webb went several times to Mrs. Banks's house with dresses. On one of these occasions, Mr. Banks asked him whether his wife had taken the parcel on purpose or by mistake. Webb answered "by mistake;" but when asked if he would mind saying so again, if called on, he would not give the promise. Webb went to Mrs. Banks on the 20th of November. She then said she feared her family knew all about her having taken the dress, and that she wished to see Mr. Parsons after seven o'clock, as she expected her husband would call on him during the day. When the witness called next morning at Mrs. Banks's, she told him she had seen Parsons, but had not detained him two minutes. After the murder was discovered, Webb again waited upon her in the way of business: "We talked a great deal about Mr. Parsons's death. I said that from the reports it was quite evident there was a woman in it. She said she did not think so, and asked if there was any suspicion in particular, and I said we knew nothing in the shop about it, but if I was not greatly mistaken it was a man with plenty of money and a very bad wife. She did not make any remark, but seemed rather confused."

From the evidence of Francis Lenthall and Sarah Ley, also in Mr. Parsons's service, it appears that Banks did call on Parsons several times, and had private interviews; one of these interviews (a few days before the murder) is described as rather stormy; not that they appeared angry, but talked as if they were disagreed. They were also seen in angry conversation on the Weyhill Road.

John Young deposed that he saw the female prisoner walking toward the Railway Tavern about nine o'clock on the evening when the murder was committed. At the tavern he saw Banks, who turned down the Millway Grove, near the scene of the crime. He expected to have driven home with both the prisoners from the tavern, or have met Mrs. Banks on the road as he returned; but he saw no more of them till eleven o'clock, when they came together to his house. "On the Friday after the murder," said this witness, "Banks was at my place, and I remarked, 'Some of you will get took up presently;' and he said, 'What for?' I said, 'For killing Mr. Parsons;' upon which Banks said, 'Thank God, I've got a clear conscience; I can prove where I was every quarter of an hour.' I said, 'Banks, you know the last time I saw you?' He said 'Yes.' I said, 'That was when you came out of the tavern and passed through the turnstile?' He made no reply."

When Banks was arrested he said he could account for his time. "I left Guyatt's (Mrs. Guyatt is his sister) just before nine o'clock. I went from there to my cottages, and from thence to Mr. Hawkins's buildings. I saw my wife in the road. I went from thence to Mr. Walker's house, it may be further, and back, round by Guyatt's, into the town. I met people I knew in the town, and came straight home. I got home at ten o'clock up town, near the market-place, and was in my own house within two minutes after ten o'clock. I saw Green that goes with the bus talking to the servant-girl as I was going into the yard. If I mistake not, I saw Mr. Preedy and a friend as I was coming down the road, and other parties." Mrs. Banks gave an account of herself which tallied with her husband's. But Banks's tenants at the cottages say they did not see him on this evening.

The prisoners were committed for trial.

MR. BRIGHT AT EDINBURGH.

ON Wednesday evening Mr. Bright addressed a meeting in the Music-hall, Edinburgh, on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. The Hall, accommodating about 2,000, was crowded to excess long before the commencement of the proceedings, and at least an equal number were unable to gain admission. Mr. Duncan McLaren presided, and it was intended that the other speakers should precede Mr. Bright, but the intense pressure in the meeting, and the difficulty in otherwise obtaining silence and order, induced them to give place to the speaker who had attracted this vast meeting. Mr. Bright's speech offered no new points for observation.

INUNDATION AT ROME.—The Ghetto at Rome is under water several yards deep, the Tiber having swollen on the 4th December—a periodical occurrence; boats are floating in the quarter of the Pantheon, carrying food and charcoal through the blocked-up streets, and several churches are quite submerged, most of the oldest of these structures being under the usual level of the modern city.

FATAL AFFRAY AT WINDERMERE.—Two servants of the Ferry Hotel, Windermere—Robinson, hostler, and Davish, boatman—had a difference, and commenced fighting near the kitchen-door. In the end of the struggle both went down, and it being about ten o'clock, and very dark, a light had to be procured before they could be separated. Robinson was found undermost, and Davish holding him desperately by the neckerchief; so firmly, indeed, that it had to be cut asunder. Robinson was dead. At the time of the encounter, he was quite sober, but his opponent was intoxicated. Davish had his eyes blackened, and was otherwise disfigured by the fight. A verdict of "Wilful murder" has been returned against him by a coroner's jury.

DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

A COAL-PIT explosion, producing terrible consequences in the loss of twenty-four lives, occurred about noon on Saturday last, at Tyldesley Colliery, two miles from Leigh. The colliery is not of very long standing, but its workings were always considered more or less dangerous. The point where the calamity is said to have its origin is some 1,000 or 1,100 yards from the pit's eye, under St. George's Church; and therefore no loud report was heard above ground. Those who were below, however, say that the noise resembled the discharge of a park of artillery. A few, though but very few, of the miners and drawers escaped before the crash came, taking alarm at the unusually dense accumulation of foul gas which was perceptible. One sturdy collier took himself and two boys to the pit's eye, through a considerable distance filled with the noxious atmosphere, but not before the two youths had become completely insensible, and the man himself was thoroughly exhausted. Those colliers and drawers who were at work in the different bays and in the levels were killed. No one connected with the colliery seemed to know at first the exact number whose lives had been sacrificed; but it soon appeared that not less than twenty-four human creatures had fallen victims. Most of them were married.

A body of anxious men were told off to explore the mine as soon as they possibly could, to ascertain beyond all doubt the exact fate of these poor fellows. But from the state of the atmosphere in the pit, some time elapsed before the first dead body was found. The men continued their search, however, and in a few hours all the twenty-four poor lifeless creatures were brought to the pit's mouth. Some were not recognisable. Nothing is known of the origin of the explosion. All the lamps that have been found appear to have had their tops on; but it is supposed that the gauze of some of them may have been imperfect.

PRINCE DANIELLO, VLADIKA OF MONTENEGRO.

BETWEEN the Austrian and Turkish dominions, on the coast of the Adriatic, lies a narrow strip of mountainous country, inhabited by an independent people of the Slavonic race, and of warlike and predatory habits. They have nothing in common with the inhabitants of the surrounding countries, greatly resembling the Highlanders of the Caucasus, with the exception that they are as inimical to the Turks as the Caucasians are friendly.

Montenegro is about sixty English miles in length, and is in no place more than thirty-five in breadth. The whole surface is piled with huge rocky mountains, heaped in disordered masses on all sides; and so numerous, that a jocular remark is rife amongst the inhabitants to the effect, that when the gods were sowing stones over the world, the bag which held them burst as it passed above Montenegro. There are no cities in the country, nor even anything that may be graced with the name of a town; the largest villages, of which there are somewhat more than a hundred, containing at the most a thousand souls. As to the extent of the entire population, it cannot be calculated with certainty, though, judging from the number of men they can bring into the field, it would probably amount to about 100,000.

Cettigne, the chief residence of the Vladika, is the only place in Montenegro that has any pretensions to a fortress. The walls that surround it are pierced with loop-holes, and mounted by a few cannon, under the safeguard of which the National Diet assembles. The Montenegrin Government is purely Republican. Each village elects its chief, who is termed Kniaz (prince). The national affairs are argued and decided by the Diet, or assembly of these elected chiefs; who, in their turn, elect the metropolitan and other great dignitaries. The metropolitan, or Vladika, possesses both the spiritual and temporal authority; but, after all, the power he holds is only a moral one, and none of the inhabitants are bound to show him obedience. The notion of equality and independence is so strongly rooted in the bosoms of this mountain people, that the poorest may say to the richest: "I am as good as yourself."

In the "British and Foreign Review," we find the following account of the history of this remarkable nation, which, sheltered by its native mountains, succeeded in maintaining its independence against the overwhelming forces of the Ottoman empire, and which attracted the notice of all Europe, by the devoted and effective assistance it gave to the Russians against the French in 1805 and 1806:—

Montenegro formed part of the Slavonic Empire of Servia, which, having attained during the fourteenth century a momentary grandeur under the reign of Tzar Dushan, was overthrown by the Turks, in 1389, when the Servian monarch, Lazar, was defeated and perished at the battle of Kopovope. From that time, Montenegro, with a part of the adjacent country, was ruled by princes of the family Chernoyevich, descendants of a son-in-law of the unfortunate Servian monarch whose tragical end we have



PRINCE DANIELLO.

noticed. The inhabitants of Montenegro lived alternately in hostility and temporary submission to the Turks; their history, contained in tradition and popular songs, is full of romance, by which the truth is somewhat obscured.

In 1516, the Sovereign Prince of Montenegro, who was married to a Venetian lady, and who had no children, was persuaded by his wife to leave his native country, in order to spend their remaining days amongst the sweets of civilisation which Venice presented. This prince abdicated, and with the consent of the nation left the supreme authority in the hands of the Vladika, or metropolitan, whose successors continue to enjoy it at the present day. From that time the history of Montenegro is one of continual struggle against the Turks. This eternal hostility made them naturally seek the alliance of every Power that was at war with the Ottoman Porte. Thus they took an active part in all the wars of the Venetian Republic against the Moslem. It was in order to obtain the protection of Russia that the Montenegrins, in 1712, declared themselves the subjects of Peter the Great, who received their oath of allegiance, and promised to defend them against their constant enemies. This protection remained, however, entirely nominal, and the Turks invaded Montenegro during the same year with a large force, but were repelled with considerable loss. Hostilities went on between the two nations up to 1718, when for nearly half a century a comparative quiet existed—a thing almost unheard of in the history of Montenegro. In 1767, the country was disturbed by a very remarkable event. An adventurer called Stephen Mali (the Little), who is said to have been a Slavonian native of Croatia, and a deserter from the Austrian army, made a tour through the province as a quack doctor, and settled afterwards as a servant in the house of an individual named Budua. Suddenly he imparted to his master, under seal of secrecy, that he was Peter the Third, Emperor of Russia. This avowal inspired the credulous master with devotion to his mysterious servitor. Being once with him at a wedding-feast in Montenegro, he treated him publicly with great marks of respect, and on giving the reason for this unusual proceeding, a report rapidly spread that the Czar of Russia was in the country.

"Stephen Mali now openly paraded his pretensions, and though declared by the Vladika to be a pretender, the number of his adherents continued to increase, and he was finally acknowledged the chief of the country. He now usurped the entire power, and gave such uneasiness by his success over the simpleminded of the mountaineers, that the Russian Court despatched Prince Dolgorouki to Montenegro, to proclaim Stephen Mali an impostor. The Vladika and Dolgorouki contrived to obtain possession of his person, and had him incarcerated in a room of the upper storey of a convent. He, however, did not lose his presence of mind, and said to those who mounted guard over him, 'You see, yourselves, that Prince Dolgorouki acknowledges me to be emperor, because, otherwise, he would not have placed me above himself but under himself.' This accidental cir-



VIEW OF NICE.

circumstance confirmed the easily influenced Montenegrins in the belief of his being the true Peter, and Dolgorouki was obliged to leave the country without having attained his object. Stephen Mali ruled Montenegro for about three years, the inhabitants yielding him a willing and unconditional obedience. His prestige was, however, impaired by the Turkish war, in which he seems not to have exhibited any marked proofs of courage, or at least of that desperate valour characteristic of the Montenegrins, and which they naturally looked for in their leader. His end was wretched: having lost his sight at the springing of a mine, he retired into a convent, where his Greek servant murdered him at the instigation of the Pacha of Scutari.

It was in the beginning of the present century that Montenegro attracted the attention of Europe, although not in a degree commensurate to its importance, by the prominent part it took in the war between France and Russia, and the extraordinary devotion it showed to the last-named Power in a quarrel entirely foreign to its own interests. After the peace in 1814, the Montenegrins remained in undisturbed quiet until the invasion of their country by the Vizier of Bosnia in 1820, who was completely defeated, and forced to retire with heavy loss. Since then, the history of this little state has become a portion of the history of Europe, and, very recently, Montenegrin affairs occupied a prominent position on the political *topics*. These events have made Prince Daniello as important as far stronger potentates; and, imagining our readers to feel some interest in him, we this week engrave his portrait.

NICE.

THE beautiful city of Nice, the favourite winter quarters of continental—and especially of royal—tourists, has recently gained much in importance by its close neighbourhood to the Russian settlement at Villafranca. The Muscovite has discovered the virtues of its climate, and loves to bask in its sunshine, tempering his northern blood in the soft breezes of the Mediterranean. Grand duchesses give their *soirées* in

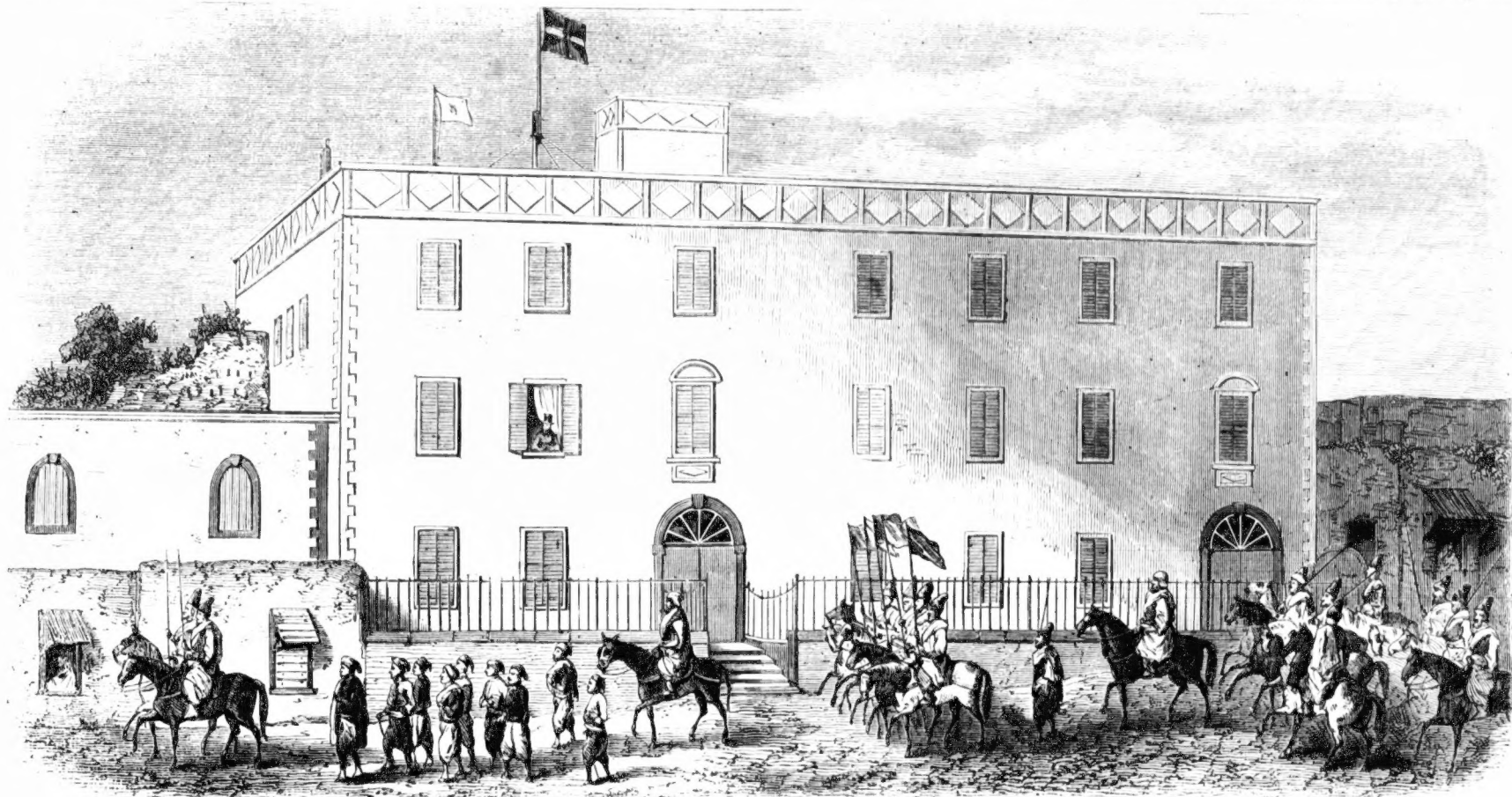


EL HADJI TARADJI, A RIFF PIRATE.

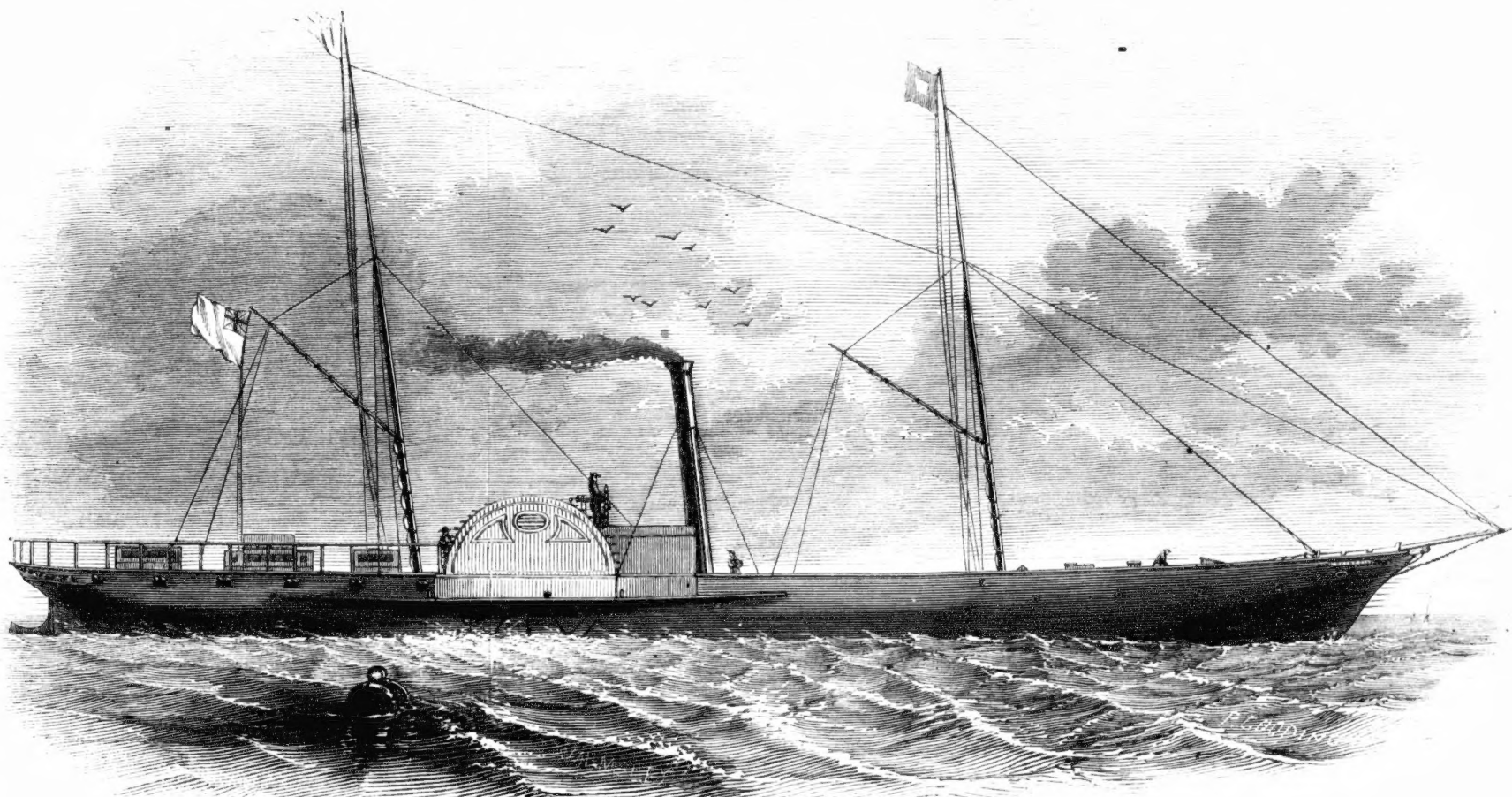
its hotels; grand dukes play *faro* in its *salle des bains*; dowager empresses hold their courts in its *palazzos*, and Russian aggression is made glad by its progress on Italian shores. Nice is a seaport of Sardinia, rejoicing in the narrow, ill-conditioned streets common to the cities of Italy, but its suburbs are broad and handsome. A castle, proudly placed on a lofty height, and surrounded by bastioned walls, frowns upon the town, though from its antiquity we doubt whether it could make any effective defence if actually attacked. The only thing it has to fear is an invasion of Russian colonists, who, as far as the city is concerned, have already taken peaceable possession of most of the furnished apartments.

THE RIFF PIRATES.

THE coast of Riff is a portion of the seaboard of Morocco, and famous for the piratical achievements of its inhabitants, who, though subjects of the Emperor, only acknowledge him as their chief in a spiritual sense. It contains a dozen or so of wretched villages, where none but the people who dwell in them dare to appear, so great is the terror inspired by these lawless brigands. The pirates most to be feared are those occupying the village of Azanem, situated at the end of a small bay on the crown of a wooded hill. The sheiks of this tribe of Riffians (or ruffians) are descendants of the race of Guelaa, and possess a large number of boats well armed and appointed. It was these who, some time since, attacked the Prussian flotilla, commanded by Prince Adalbert of Prussia, and who at various times have beaten off disciplined European troops. The Emperor of Morocco, at last, saw the necessity of taking some measure to assert his authority over these defiant subjects, and accordingly he sent the Pacha of Tangier, Ben-Abou, at the head of an imposing force, to collect the considerably-overdue tribute levied on the people of Riff. Ben-Abou succeeded beyond his hopes, and returned to Abder-Rhaman laden with a large sum of silver and gold. He was also fortunate enough to burn a number of their boats, checking for a time their lawless depredations by depriving them of



RETURN OF BEN-ABOU PACHA FROM AN EXPEDITION AGAINST THE RIFF PIRATES.



THE RAINBOW, STEEL STEAM-BOAT, EMPLOYED IN THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

the means of doing mischief. The head we have engraved is the portrait of one of these Berber pirates taken prisoner by Ben-Ahoub; and a pretty specimen he is!

However, the depredations of the pirates still continued, and the Spanish Government at length resolved to strike a decisive blow against them. An expedition was fitted out for that purpose early in November, and it was so far successful, that the pirates tendered their submission to Brigadier Buceta. But the matter does not seem to be concluded. The Emperor of Morocco has been appealed to by Spain, for a satisfactory settlement of this difficulty, among others; and blood may yet be shed.

THE "RAINBOW" EXPLORING VESSEL.

Six months ago, considerable interest was excited on the Mersey, by the appearance on its waters of a smart, rakish-looking paddle-steamer, of about 170 tons burden. She sailed smoothly and rapidly towards the channel, her steam-pipe emitting the energetic snort peculiar to a railway locomotive, proving that she was fitted with a high-pressure engine. The interest created by the appearance of the vessel was increased when it became known that she was a new exploration steamer in connection with the Niger expedition, and that she had been constructed of steel-plates. She was about to make her trial trip, which proved highly successful, the average speed attained being twelve to thirteen miles per hour; while there was almost entire absence of vibration, which is especially noteworthy, considering that the steel-plates were only one-eighth of an inch thick. She had all the stiffness and rigidity of a strong ship, and her performance was declared to be exceedingly satisfactory.

The steamer was launched from the shipbuilding-yard of Mr. John Laird, at Birkenhead, and started on her expedition a few days afterwards. Her dimensions are—Length, 130 feet; beam, 16 feet. The hull is subdivided by athwartships and longitudinal bulkheads into ten or twelve water-tight compartments, for the purpose of giving greater strength and rendering her more secure against accidents. The high-pressure engine is of sixty-horse power, working up to two hundred horse-power, indicated; and the boilers, which have also been made of puddle-steel plates, were proved up to 200 lbs. on the square inch, though they were only to be worked at 50 lbs to 60 lbs.

The advantage of employing steel over the ordinary iron plates is, that, with about half the thickness, they give equal strength with the best iron boiler-plates, so that vessels of considerably lighter draught of water are able to be constructed than formerly, a result which is likely to be of incalculable benefit in the navigation of the shallow rivers of Africa and India. It will be remembered that Dr. Livingstone took out a small steel steam-yacht, the plates for which were formed of "the patent homogeneous metal." The advantage claimed for the puddled steel is, that, while possessing equal strength and adaptability for the purposes of shipbuilding, it can be more economically produced. Indeed, it is said of the puddled steel that the process of manufacture is so simple, and the cost so little in excess of that of ordinary iron, that, by the saving of weight in the material, as compared with iron of equal strength, it will become absolutely cheaper.

THE FUGITIVE BY THE PROPRIETOR OF THE "WIGAN EXAMINER."—On Saturday the grand jury, at the assizes, found a true bill, containing five distinct indictments, against John Pollard, for many years the proprietor of the "Wigan Examiner" newspaper. Pollard, on arraignment, pleaded not guilty.

A WOMAN SHOT BY HER BROTHER.—George Le Rougetel, a fisherman of Grouville, Jersey, went home tipsy and ill-tempered on Sunday morning. With him lived his sister, a married woman, her two children and his mother, who is very aged and bed-ridden. It was necessary to lift the mother, and the son wished to do it, but she would not let him, preferring the help of her daughter. This exasperated him; in a fit of fury he took down his gun and shot his sister dead. The poor woman was sitting on her bed, and her boy was by her side when she received her death wound.

THEFT FROM A PRUSSIAN PALACE.—The costly silver épergne, presented by the city of Cologne to Prince and Princess Frederick-William of Prussia as a marriage-gift, has been stolen from the so-called "Ancient Throne Room" of the Palace. Some person of the Royal household must needs have abetted the theft; the worst of which is, that the comparatively small value of the metal, the épergne was a work of high artistic excellence; and on that account, rather than any other, cost the city of Cologne nearly £5,000.

ALLOPATHY AND HOMOEOPATHY.—A great medical cause long pending at Paris, between the allopathists and the homoeopaths, has terminated to the disadvantage of the latter. The case, in a word, was simply this:—The "Union Médicale" some time since stigmatised homoeopathy as a pretended science, and its professors as charlatans. Upon this twenty-four homoeopaths of Paris brought an action for libel. Mr. Emile Olivier did his best for them, but the court, after a hearing of several days, dismissed their action with costs.

DISTRICT TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—A London District Telegraph Company is to be established, for the purpose of providing localities in the neighbourhood of the metropolis with the means of telegraphic communication. It is proposed to divide the city and suburbs into eleven districts, each containing 100 stations, so as to insure that a despatch may be delivered in the course of a few minutes. Messages of ten words are proposed to be sent for 4d. to any place within four miles of Charing Cross. The construction, so far as practicable, will be by the inexpensive over-house system adopted in Paris, New York, Brussels, and lately in London by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons.

PICCOLINI IN TROUBLE.—Piccolini appears to have been very rudely treated in the "Courrier des Etats Unis" in America. In one article occurred the following passage:—"The father of the pretended princess-singer is only a simple citizen, like you or me, and he bore the modest name of Clementini until the notion seized him to throw dust in the eyes of the public. On that occasion it was discovered that Madame Clementini, his wife, was descended, more or less remotely, from some branch of the Piccolini family, and it was readily seen what advantage might be taken of this providential connection." This produced a savage retort from the manager of the opera. He says: "The paper has been controlled by three hungry Frenchmen, and in their hands it has lost all its influence. These three hungry Frenchmen are—Trobiani, formerly a resident at Tours, in France; the other is Masseras, half a Frenchman and half a Spaniard; the third, and, thank God, last, is Lassale, the proprietor, who tells everybody with tears in his eyes, that Masseras, his paid editor, rules him with an iron hand; that he is bound by contract to let Trobiani write what he pleases; that he has to pay him twenty-five dollars a week, and that he cannot get rid of him before next May. I have had the misfortune to displease all of them. Trobiani, because I will not permit my artists to sing at his sugar-and-water soirées; Lassale, because I do not advertise as largely in his paper as in the 'Herald,' 'Times,' 'Tribune,' 'Express,' 'Post,' &c.; Masseras, because I used to address the free admissions to the editors, and not to him alone—he personally being greatly in want of opera tickets, for purposes to me unknown." A very pretty quarrel.

EUGENIE'S PETITION.—"The Empress Eugenie," says the Press, "has a great dislike to residing in Paris, owing to the repeated attempts that have been made in it to take her imperial husband's life. 'It is only in Paris,' is her exclamation, 'that the assassin's hand is raised, and I hate Paris.' In consequence of this sentiment, her Majesty tried to postpone as long as she could the departure of the Court from Compiègne, and by her influence with the Emperor she obtained postponement after postponement. At last, Thursday, the 2nd, was fixed for the return; the Empress begged for another delay, but was told that it could not possibly be accorded; whereupon her Majesty with her own fair hand drew up a petition to the Emperor, humbly supplicating for an additional delay of a week, or at the very least to Sunday, the 5th, and she based her prayer on three grounds:—First, that the chamber of the Prince Imperial at the Palace of the Tuileries having undergone some repairs, was somewhat damp; second, that a new study, made for the Emperor himself, was unwholesome; third, that she herself and the ladies of her suite had not dresses 'fit to be seen in,' and must consequently get new ones made. This petition her Majesty signed, and all her ladies of honour, by her direction, signed it likewise. And when the Emperor was about to sit down to dinner, in swept a troop of chamberlains and lackeys, carrying a gigantic silver salver, on which was a document bearing an enormous seal. 'What is that?' said the Emperor, greatly surprised. The Empress looked astonished, but demurely suggested that perhaps it was 'a petition from some poor people.' The Emperor broke the seal—read—smiled; and, amidst a pleasant peal of laughter from the Empress and her ladies, graciously decided on remaining at Compiègne to Sunday. So the imperial return took place only on Sunday last."

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

MR. BRIGHT AT MANCHESTER.

THE *service* at Manchester in honour of Mr. Bright and Mr. Gibson, prepared with so much care by the local leaders of their old party, took place on Friday night in the Free Trade Hall. The old time seemed to be revived. The hall was full of an audience admitted by ticket; Mr. George Wilson presided; and the heroes of the evening were cheered as lustily as ever. Letters of apology were received from a number of prominent men, including Lord John Russell, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Villiers, Mr. Locke King, Mr. Layard, and Mr. Roebuck. Mr. George Wilson delivered an introductory harangue, and resolutions were adopted expressing devout gratitude at the restoration of Mr. Bright to health; satisfaction at the return to Parliament of Mr. Bright and Mr. Gibson, and thanks to Birmingham and Ashton; and thanks to those two gentlemen for their patriotic conduct and public services in behalf of political, commercial, and religious freedom. Then came the speeches of the guests. Mr. Gibson returned thanks, and ridiculed the idea that the people do not want reform. Mr. Bright was received with very hearty demonstrations, and spoke at great length. He began by contrasting the conduct of the Tory party at Peterloo—the site of the Free Trade Hall—with its conduct in voting for corn-law repeal and its present exertions to extend the political rights of the people. Then he promised to touch on the details of the Reform Bill; but stopped on the way to deny that he desired to question the prerogatives of the Crown or of the House of Peers. His next proposition was that the House of Commons does not represent the country. There are 1,000,000 voters, yet 200,000 are allowed to elect one-half of the House of Commons. The county voters, to a large extent, only serve to swell the power of the landed proprietors; the families of the great proprietors receive more in the way of emolument from the public revenue than they pay in taxes to the state—finding salaries in the army, the navy, the church, the government. Then as to boroughs: seventy-one boroughs, each with a population under 10,000, return 117 members; whereas Manchester and Salford, with a population nearly as large, only return three. Half these little boroughs are "rotten." Hence the House of Commons is a sort of Deputy to the House of Lords; it hates change; it shields property from the burden of taxation; it never passes an act because it is just, but because revolution is imminent or famine present. Argument has been exhausted on the ballot, on the game laws, on church-rates—and for all the ballot is not conceded nor the game laws or church-rates abolished.

"I believe that no great measure passes the House of Commons merely because it is just; it passes sometimes because the people are restive, sometimes because the exigencies of party require that something should be done; but it does not pass—I state it fearlessly, after fifteen years' sitting at that House—a great measure of justice does not pass because it is just. Then I come to the conclusion that reform is necessary, but I can show you further that it is inevitable. The Government is at a deadlock without Parliamentary reform. The only great result of the Reform Bill in the House has been this—that it has introduced about 100 men from the shackles of show some amount of independence, and they act free from the shackles of the Tory or Whig sections of the aristocracy; and it is by our work, it is by our speeches, by our votes, that we transfer the government from one party to the other, but we make it impossible for either of them to conduct the government upon the antiquated principles which we and the people of England are ready to abolish."

A large portion of his oration Mr. Bright devoted to the denial of a charge brought against him by some "cunning knave" that Mr. Bright wants to "Americanise" us; and to answers to "scores of writers" who have attacked his Birmingham speeches, and who, "if they were dressed in the garb that becomes them would be dressed in plush." Mr. Bright declared himself in favour of a rating franchise; the ballot; but was not so definite upon electoral districts. He then asked whether they could do anything to realise his project?

"There is a danger awaits us. It is quite possible—I think it is not entirely improbable—that if the present Government should introduce a Bill very ineffectual, wholly falling short of what we have a right to expect, that there should be some combination of the most unworthy portion of the Whig party with the present Government for the sake of carrying that Bill. It would be a great misfortune to us if any such thing should happen. But that misfortune would be but temporary. It would be a fatal act on the part of the Whig party to take any such course as that. They would bring about this great result, that the aristocracy, who were wholly opposed to free Parliaments in this country, would sit on one side of the House, and that we, who may be considered of a more democratic party, would take our seats on the other; but I will undertake to say, that if that division should once take place in Parliament, every election would increase the power of the democratic section, and that the remembrance of the treason to the people which would be effected by conduct such as this would create an animosity against the ruling class, against which I believe they would be wholly unable to contend."

LORD PALMERSTON AT ROMSEY.

Lord Palmerston presided over the annual dinner of the Romsey Agricultural Society on Thursday week. As politics were not allowed, he referred to no political subjects not historical—taking credit for the glorious issue of the Crimean war, and the appointment of Lord Canning, Lord Clyde, and Lord Elgin—three successful officers of state. The rest of his speech was on agricultural improvement since Corn-law repeal, coupled with a recommendation to farmers and others to look after the wants and relieve the sufferings of their labourers.

Dr. Beddome, six times mayor of Romsey, carried his worship of Lord Palmerston rather far, and showed it rather injudiciously. He said:—"His Lordship, however, could now show his moral courage by crossing the Channel without becoming the subject of public criticism and remonstrance. Yet there was this coincidence connected with his visit to France, that immediately after his return the Emperor of the French gave a free pardon to Count Montalembert."

MR. MILNER GIBSON AT ASHTON.

Mr. Milner Gibson attended a public meeting at Ashton-under-Lyne, last week, for the purpose of setting forth his views. Much of his speech was taken up with the past. He justified his amendment on the Conspiracy Bill on the ground that the Palmerston Government was about to alter the criminal law in a precipitate manner, and touch the delicate subject of conspiracy without deliberation. He was glad the Government were turned out; he could not see what harm has happened from the advent of Lord Derby to power, and recommended Lord Palmerston and other old leaders to retire from public affairs, and not trouble the country by aspiring to lead the Liberal party. With regard to the Reform Bill, he had heard that Lord Derby was going to astonish the Whigs, and go further than they would like to follow. Then there was Mr. Gibson's esteemed and excellent friend, Mr. Bright; but he had not seen Mr. Bright's Reform Bill. Although it might not go to an extent that would meet all the wishes of Reformers, he had no doubt it would be a real and solid improvement in the representative system. He himself was prepared to support any bill that proposed a sound measure of Reform, without inquiring whether it went far enough.

MR. ROBERT LOWE AT KIDDERMINSTER.

Mr. Robert Lowe has been on a visit to his constituents; they entertained him at dinner one day, and he entertained them with a political oration the next. He showed allegiance to Lord Palmerston in regard to his past services. As to the present Ministry, he sees no occasion to find great fault with them—they have given up their own principles and adopted those of the Liberals. A Reform Bill, he believed, was not wanted by the people; there was no public enthusiasm, no feeling in the matter. Whatever agitation there was apparent did not come from below, it was the work of statesmen anxious for popularity. Still, he said, he was ready to act on the principles propounded by Lord Grey in 1832—to disfranchise boroughs which have fallen into the hands of single patrons, to remodel the divisions of the counties, and vote for a £10 county franchise, to preserve the representation in the hands of property and intelligence. "But if you want a representative who is prepared to swamp and destroy the influence which now resides in the middle classes, and that, not for the benefit of the middle classes only, but of all classes in the community, you must look elsewhere, for I am not the man."

GOVERNMENT ARRESTS IN IRELAND.

CLUBS of a secret character exist throughout Ireland, under the title of Phoenix Societies, which associations are accused of courting invasion as a means of relieving Ireland from the rule of the Queen. The police have stepped into their clubs, and have arrested a score or two of the members in various places. At Belfast, a party of constabulary, fully armed, surrounded a public-house in Cromac Street, kept by a woman named Mickie, and arrested some fifteen persons, who were then assembled. The prisoners were immediately marched to the police-office, where their committal was made out by a magistrate, and they were marched off under a strong escort, and lodged in the Antrim County Jail. Nine persons have also been arrested at Kesh, and four at Killybegs; other parties were to be seized.

This is a very serious matter; whether the police be or be not justified in a course so decided, so unusual, and so rarely necessary in the British islands.

A preliminary meeting of landed proprietors was held in Dublin on Saturday, to make arrangements for a general meeting of the landed gentry of Ireland of all parties, to take into consideration the duties of the law for the protection of life and property, and the amendment which should be sought for in the next session of Parliament. The meeting will be held in Dublin about the middle of January.

LORD STANLEY'S ADVICE TO ADDISCOTHE CADETS.

The Secretary of State for India made an address on Friday (10th) to the cadets at Addiscombe, on the occasion of distributing the prizes consequent on the public half-yearly examination. He said:

"Everything in Asia, public society, national education, political education, rest on the force of individual character. In our day, the individual, in consequence of never permanently obtaining a definite position, with perseverance, need be careful of an opportunity. And in mind that when the time of trial arrives, whatever it will be, it will be the work and wait a few months, a few weeks, even a few days, before we can build up the edifice of fame and success for which the whole of our previous life has been training. But such chances occur only for the few; can turn them to account, and for the highest success, even of a military life, a merely military training is a very insufficient qualification. No man, believe me, can be a really efficient general, far less an efficient administrator, who does not carefully study the human machinery with which he has to work—the people of the country in which he lives and acts. Do not imagine that your work is more than begun when you have acquired the necessary qualification of language. Examine the native habits, examine native ideas, examine native characters, and you will have at least this, even if you gain nothing else, that you will avoid the ignorant and unwise contempt for all that is Asiatic which is so generally and so politically done. Endeavour to much learn in the East. I speak to you a man who aspires to, and all are prepared to struggle for, the highest prize of life, and I hold it needless to warn you against the temptation of indolence, or extravagance, or pleasure. Once you are in the East, and I believe it will not be long, how the brightest prospect may be clouded, and the most vigorous energies impaired, by debts hastily contracted, and not for long years shallan off. Others will warn you that you are one of the few among the many, and I think you will take the warning; that in a climate not naturally congenial to Englishmen the connection between even a slight violation of temperance and disease of body and mind is far more invariable and certain than at home. I only add this: Remember (though to some of you it may have a startling sound) that for an Englishman in India there is, strictly speaking, no private life; he is one of the ruling race, the few among the many—one of a population some three times stronger among more than one hundred millions. There are, little as you know or care about it, quick eyes to watch his conduct, and evasive tongues ready enough to disparage his nation and his race. This is not merely a personal matter. A single officer who forgets that he is an officer of a gentleman, does more harm to the moral influence of the country than a man of blameless life can do good. To you, therefore, as to none else, the honour of England is committed; you are the representatives of the only of our military strength, but also of our national character. You are forth from a college which has trained through a long series of years many of the ablest public servants whom the empire has ever produced. I wish you God-speed, and I believe that whatever may happen you will do your duty."

ARMY REFORM.

A GENERAL ORDER was issued from the Horse Guards last week, publishing instructions which were supplied to find were needed at the day. As thus: officers recommended for promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel were to be instructed on the following points. They must have a thorough knowledge of the duties they have to perform as regimental or company officers, as officers commanding guards, or as subaltern officers of guards under officers of superior rank. They must be able to put a company through the manual and platoon exercise, and be capable of exercising both a squad and a company in drill. They must know exactly the place of all the company's officers in every situation of the battalion, and be able to command a company in battalion exercise. They must be acquainted with such parts of the Queen's regulations and orders for the army as relate to the duties and conduct of a subaltern officer, and with the Mutiny Act and Articles of War, so far as is necessary for the performance of his duties as members of a court-martial. They must be acquainted with the Queen's regulation in regard to the pay and messing of the troops, and the supply of necessaries. They must know the weight of the knapsack, the weight of the soldier's firock, with and without the bayonet, of his pouch, with and without ammunition, the quantity of ammunition, if he is a cavalryman, to carry, and the weight of his accoutrements.

Of cavalry cornets, it is required that they shall have learnt their drill and sword exercise, and have been instructed in the use of the lance. That they shall be able to command a troop in squadron exercise. That they shall have made themselves masters of the details of cavalry, the mode of fitting the saddle, bridle, &c., and of the whole equipment of the cavalry soldier and his horse, and so on.

Every cornet or ensign is to be examined on the different points specified in the order before he has completed eight months' service, and should fail to qualify himself for promotion within that period, his commanding officer must report, for the information of the General Commandant in Chief, whether it is owing to a want of diligence and attention on the part of the officer, or to circumstances (such as sickness or other) over which he could have had no control.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT BERLIN.—A ball was given last week, by Lord Bloomfield, the English Minister at Berlin, in honour of the Prince of Wales. There were present the Prince Regent, the Princess of Prussia, Prince Frederick-William, Prince and Princess Charles, the Princess Frederick-Charles, the Prince Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, President of the Council, the members of the Ministry, the Diplomatic Corps, and a great number of other distinguished personages. In the course of the ball, at about half-past eleven o'clock, the corps diplomatique were presented to the Prince of Wales, who conversed with the chiefs of the missions. The Prince Regent and the Princess of Prussia withdrew after the supper, which was served at midnight. "The Prince of Wales, who danced a great deal, remained until three o'clock." His Royal Highness was to have left Berlin on the 11th for Cologne; whence, after a short stay, he returns to London.

SUPPOSED MURDER AT WALTHAM CROSS.—The body of a young woman and an infant were discovered on the 5th inst., in a pond by the side of the new road leading from Loughton to Waltham Holy Cross. At the first inquiry before the coroner, it was ascertained that the woman had arrived at the Loughton station from Fenchurch Street, on the previous Thursday, in company with another woman with whom she appeared to be on intimate terms. A labourer named Parish accompanied the women in the same carriage, and in the course of the journey overheard a portion of the conversation of the parties, from which it appeared that the deceased, with her child, had recently left an infirmary, and was then about to seek its father, who had refused to support it. The supposition then was that the unfortunate woman in a fit of desperation murdered the infant and then committed suicide; but the inquiry was resumed on Monday, when it became apparent that both the deceased had been murdered and afterwards thrown into the water. A surgeon who had made a post-mortem examination of the bodies, stated that he found an external bruise on the left breast of the woman and another on the bend of the right arm, which he thought had been occasioned after death. He also found another bruise on the forehead, extending from the base of the nose upwards and outwards, about an inch and a half in length. On the removal of the scalp he found that the brain was deep-seated and extended to the skull itself, the membranes of which were deeply congested. On the posterior part, corresponding with the upper part of the occipital bone, there was an effusion of blood; the blood was in a fluid state, and thus leading to the conclusion that the effusion occurred immediately preceding or at the time of death. Some other witnesses were examined, but their evidence did not give further elucidation of the occurrence, and the inquiry was again adjourned.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1858.

THE MONTALEMBERT TRIAL.

SINCE the first act in this disgraceful performance, some of our journals have hung back from the Count's support, and endeavour to pooh-pooh his struggle with Napoleon. For our part, we think he was perfectly right at first, and that he is still in the right in going through with the affair. The "pardon" could not operate till the sentence was definitive, and this was not the case while an appeal remained open. Otherwise, we do not see why a right of appeal should exist at all; for it must be remembered that what a prisoner gains by an appeal is not the chance of escape only, but the chance of proving his innocence. So that had Montalembert accepted the grace in question, it would have amounted to acknowledging that he had been guilty. A man who cannot see that this is the moral position at stake—or who, seeing it, denies the Count the sympathy he is entitled to—wants either common sense or common honesty.

To be sure, your "practical" man (and when one puts that epithet forward, one is apt to be thinking that honour and sentiment is to be sacrificed for convenience sake) looks on the affair differently. His view is, that as the Count could have got off, he should have got off, *sans phrase*—that he should have made the best of a bad bargain—wished the despot good morning, and been contented with the kind of triumph already gained. But this, though plausible, misses two important points. For, first of all, Montalembert has been, throughout, asserting a principle, and is actual in refusing to act as if this were a matter of mere expediency. And, secondly, the *mode* in which the pardon was made, was such as to leave the Emperor's government no claim to such gratitude as might have induced a generous enemy to waive his strict rights and accept peace. The *mode* in question was simply a bit of downright insolence to the Count and his party—of insolence utterly vulgar, and cowardly likewise. The proof of this is the exultation with which the whole Junkyard of Paris received it, including, we regret to say, some so-called English Conservatives, who know nothing of the historic principles of their party. To remind the Count of the "2nd of December" in that fashion was not even an epigram. For the ingenuity required was scarcely more than that which prompts a convicted burglar to "chaff" the judge. But if wit was wanting to it, it was still worse off for sense. Montalembert may have thought—as we think—that the Empire was better than Socialism; and yet not have been pledged to a tyranny directed against harmless constitutional writing, such as overflowed from the French press during the worst days of the old Bourbons. There was no ground for the sneer, and when we remember the occasion seized upon for it, and the old claims of Montalembert on the Emperor, for at least common gratitude, who will assert that such a sneer could possibly have come from a gentleman? If the great French orator had taken since "from a graceless face" (as the Scotch ballad says) under such circumstances, every varlet of absolutism in Europe would have exulted over him. He very quietly rebuked the low insolence by asserting (a much better point, by the way) that he was "one of those who still believed in right," and that he declined to receive anything "as a favour." It is, of course, highly probable that the kind of right he believes in will not be forthcoming in France just now. But what then? At least, it is worth knowing that such is the case; and, having been beaten by brute force, M. de Montalembert's moral dignity remains unimpaired. As for the idea that we are to put up with anything from an emperor, because the empire is a fact, that would have justified a vote of confidence in Caligula or Nero.

There are various attempts made in England to keep people from regarding this trial with impartiality. Sometimes we are reminded that Montalembert is a Roman Catholic, as if, in a question of Constitutionalism, it is the least mattered, that he, a Frenchman, held the national religion of his country; and as if he had not, in the very essay for which he is prosecuted, declared war against the worst species of Popery (that of the "Univers") existing in France. This is not a religious question. It is simply a question whether, when a Frenchman is prosecuted for praising England, Englishmen ought to sympathise with him or his prosecutor. As to the degree of freedom with which we may do this, when did our ancestors ever condescend to take a foreign opinion on that point? If our rulers are really of opinion that the country is not in a position to speak its mind, in the name of goodness let us be told so at once; for they may rely upon it that they will be held responsible for the fact when it comes to the push. But such maudling old dames as Sir Francis Head are not yet held to be final authorities on that point. The country is great and wealthy, and the race vigorous and brave. We want no wars, but the sure way to get them would be to truckle to everybody as if we had neither a sword nor a shilling.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has secured a box for the English Opera season at Covent Garden. Mr. Gye explains the statement of Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison, that Covent Garden Theatre is "let to them for a succession of seasons;" it is let to them only for the winter months.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE is about to be considerably augmented; there being many eligible candidates inscribed on the register, the additional number required can be raised without difficulty.

DR. JEFFERSON, who has now gone to Hungary, had an audience of the Emperor and Empress of Austria on the 6th. His Highness talks of going to Greece, Turkey, and Persia.

HANS VON BULOW, son-in-law and scholar of Liszt, has been appointed pianist to the Prince-Royal of Prussia.

THE LATE MISS MARY BARCLAY, of Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh, has bequeathed her entire property, amounting to about £30,000, to the Free Church.

MR. M. MACDONALD HUME has presented to the Scotch National Gallery a portrait of his wife's grand-uncle, Hume, the historian and philosopher. It is an excellent work of art, and by a Scotchman—Allen Ramsay, the son of the poet.

THE COALWRIGHTS OF THE PORT OF LONDON strike for an advance of wages on Saturday morning. They have been paid 6d. per ton for whipping coals for some time, although their pay for the same work was formerly 13d. They now demand 8d. per ton.

SIR WALTER TRISTRAM, Bart., has placed £100 at the disposal of the Council of the Society of Arts, to be awarded as a prize for an essay on Marine Alga, as applicable for food, medicine, and industrial purposes.

THE NEW MUSICAL SOCIETY commences its proceedings by holding a concert on Wednesday last.

A MINISTER at Sunderland denounced crime from the pulpit lately. The sittings, he said, were not arranged for "the present exaggerated proportions of the labour;" and he could not see that the "proportion" should be the means of excluding people from the chapel.

THREE CHRISTMAS READERIES, by Mr. Charles Dickens, will take place at St. Martin's Hall, on Christmas-eve; on the evening of Boxing-day; and on the evening of Twelfth Night. Each evening, "The Christmas Carol," and "The Trial from Pickwick."

THE "Literary Gazette" tells a story of Dumas: "Taking up by chance the last number of his periodical 'Le Monte-Christo,' I saw these three lines in one of his letters from Russia, where he now is, and, astonished, went no further:—I was asked to allow myself to be presented to the Emperor Alexander on his return from Archangel. I refused!"

COLONEL PERCEVAL, Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Lords, died on Thursday last at his residence in Chester Street.

IS A REPORT by the "Gardener's Chronicle" upon the Paris Horticultural Society, it is mentioned that "the finest plants exhibited were produced from flower-beds which had been inserted on barren spots of other trees during the previous autumn."

THE KING OF BAVARIA has bestowed an ex-officio for whom Mozart specially composed a part in his "Magic Flute." His name is Ekkhardt; she is twenty-one years of age, and blind; and she has hitherto supported her mother miserably enough by the presents which she received at various times.

MR. ARMITAGE'S HISTORICAL ALLEGORY OF "REVERENDIES," which was in the Exhibition of the Royal Academy this year, and is now in the Exhibition of the Liverpool Society of Fine Arts, has been presented by the artist to the town of Leeds, and is to be placed in the new Town Hall on the close of the Liverpool Exhibition.

PRIVATE GEORGE DROWER, Sergeant, 1st Regiment, 4th Light Infantry, died at St. Mary's Barracks, Chelsea, in order to obtain his discharge from the service. He has since died at the garrison hospital from the effects of the injury.

TWO SLIGHTS, intended to be used in the conveyance of the mails in the northern counties during snow-storms, have been landed at Wick. They are both light and elegant conveyances, and are said to be admirably adapted for the purpose.

THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL is in luck's way. Baron Lionel de Rothschild has transferred £2,000, consols, to its account as the foundation of a scholarship. Mr. Tite has founded two other scholarships; and the sum of the Masterman testimonial is to be devoted to the establishment of a fourth.

A NEW COMPANY has been formed to connect Ireland with North America by a submarine cable; and the Government will be asked to guarantee the 4½ per cent. upon £357,000. It is now certain that the fatal fault in the old cable are not near the shore, but at some hundred miles from the coasts of Ireland and Newfoundland respectively.

THE NEW YORK BOOKSELLERS are as busy as ever in printing English works, chief among them Mr. Carlyle's "Friedrich," of which there seems to have been sold already more copies in the States than in England.

A SUBSCRIPTION is being raised for a memorial to James Haig.

MAJOR-GENERAL WASHINGTON, a comrade of the late Sir Charles Napier, and conspicuous for his devoted courage at the blowing up of Enam Ghur in the deserts of Sind, died recently. He had been forty-six years in the service of the East India Company as an engineer.

THE TWO UNDERGRADUATES of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, who were recently riding in a hired dog-cart with two women, at the time one of the women was killed, have been "rusticated," i.e., excluded from their College, for three university terms.

LORD BROUGHAM will preside at the Burns's Centenary Festival in Edinburgh on the 23rd of January.

THE PERFORMANCES OF M. REYNARD'S FRENCH OPERA COMPANY are announced to commence on the 29th at the St. James's Theatre. The singers announced are Madame Faure, Mlle. Céline Mathieu, MM. Fougère and Emon.

PROFESSOR FARADAY will give, during the Christmas holidays, six lectures, adapted to a juvenile auditory, "On Metalline Properties," at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street.

A FATAL EPIDEMIC, of typhoid character, which has recently occurred at Windsor, and which has secured some victims within the precincts of the castle, has been made the subject of a special inquiry by Sir James Clark and other eminent medical gentlemen, and turns out to have been occasioned by imperfect drainage.

A GROCER, in Wulworth Road, London, had poisoned some tigs for the purpose of killing rats. Some of them got swept out into the street, and were found and eaten by two children, who were shortly afterwards taken very ill.

A GOVERNMENT MESSAGE is said to have been sent to Corfu and answered in six seconds.

LORD MALMESBURY has contradicted the report that the King of Naples had made overtures to the French and British Governments for the removal of diplomatic relations, and that our Cabinet had replied that such a step would be facilitated by the King granting an amnesty.

THE SACRED COLLEGE at Rome has prohibited for the future Christians entering the service of Jews.

THE BIG BELL given to Sherborne by Cardinal Wolsey, terminated its career on Sunday evening of last week. As the ringers were ringing for service it cracked, and is no longer fit for use.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA'S HEALTH is not improved by his residence at Florence; the air does not seem to agree with him. He never goes out, and the Queen is seldom seen in public.

THE NUMBER OF SPANISH VESSELS which protect the Isle of Cuba is now 26, and they carry 381 guns.

THE CAST IN BALFE'S NEW OPERA, entitled "Satanella, or the Power of Love," is a strong one; in addition to the present company, Mr. Weiss, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, and others are to appear; and the band is to be increased in numbers.

THE AUTHOR of the "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation," is stated by the new "British Museum Catalogue" to be Mr. Robert Chambers, of Edinburgh.

A HANDSOME MONUMENT, upwards of nine feet high, by nearly five feet wide, has been erected in the old church of St. John, Perth, to the memory of the officers and privates of her Majesty's 90th Regiment of Light Infantry who fell or died during the Crimean campaign.

THE COAST OF SPAIN, from Cape St. Vincent to Cadiz, is strewn with wrecks, and over one hundred corpses of drowned mariners have been washed ashore. Malaga and Seville are inundated.

MR. CYRUS REDDING has in the press a life of his friend Campbell, the poet.

COLONEL BOATES, a Waterloo hero, was thrown from his horse while hunting with Sir W. Wynn's hounds, and died the same evening.

AN AUSTRALIAN GENTLEMAN, Mr. James Austin (now in England), has shipped ninety-two partridges, sixty-four pheasants, six hares, besides a goodly number of blackbirds and thrushes, for his estate at Darwin Park, thirty miles from Geelong. An experienced gamekeeper has gone out in charge of them.

MISERABLE SINNERS OF CHRISTCHURCH, OXFORD

WHEN our good Queen Victoria was younger—in the days of the Consulate of Plancus, scarce a *lustrum* ago, I was a merry undergraduate at St. Boniface College, Oxford. No man was better known than Vaughan Dayrell, of St. Boniface. He went to "wines," gave "wines," sang comic songs at roystering supper parties, made a book on the boats and the Derby, attended prize-fights with some punctuality, and university sermons with still more, frequented the chapel and the lecture-room with remarkable irregularity, denounced priestcraft and kinkcraft at the Union with Demosthenic fire and Ciceroian rotundity, and was, indeed, for a university man, not an unfavourable specimen of the "miserable sinner." I must continue to speak of myself as Caesar (to whom, by the way, there is no statesman living fit to hold a shaving-pot) has done in his Commentaries, in the third person—V. D. could chaff a policeman, join in a Town and Gown riot on the 5th of November, cut the rope of the chapel bell at midnight, let off fireworks in the quadrangle at three A.M., outstrip, with Achillesian swift-footedness, the swiftest of the proctor's bulldogs—all these could he do, but they were not his specialty. His specialty was going to church—he had "bidding ears"—popular preacher-hunting was his hobby. Sunday was anything but a day of rest to him. There was, perhaps, a Sabbatical calmness about his Saturday. It was his time of preparation for the pleasant toils of the following day. You should have seen, my dear Mr. Editor of the "Illustrated Times," my dear Lounger at any amount of Clubs, and all you editors, sub-editors, leading-article writers, &c., &c., &c., you should have seen the thoughtful and scrupulous care with which Vaughan Dayrell left at an early hour any convivial entertainment, arranged his toilet for to-morrow's triumphs, and retired meditating moodily on heresy and hair-oil, transubstantiation and turn-down collars, Puseyism and petpops. Three times to chapel, and four to church! I have seen, indeed, I remember, was once and only accomplished by the miserable sinner. Not that he had by any means a sufficiently serious view of the duties he so sedulously self-imposed. He spoke of sermons with terrible familiarity—sometimes they were "stunning," sometimes "slow." He would offer to lay four to one, in Hall, that "the Principal's sermon, this evening, old fellow, will be taken from the second lesson, and that he will introduce at least three Greek quotations." He asserted that he could infallibly distinguish a High-churchman from a Low-churchman, in the dark, by his voice. He called the late lamented Rev. Robert Montgomery, of the Percy Chapel, "Bob" and "Satan," did this audacious "miserable sinner." "You see," he observed on one occasion, "I manage my Sunday very pleasantly. I can't ride or row, and I don't read; and I am particularly fond of divinity—always was: college chapel at eight; breakfast, eight A.M.; University sermon at ten; bidding, prayer, and all, over in an hour and twenty minutes; get in late at St. Catherine's to hear Bishop of Oxford preach—clipping preacher Bishop of Oxford; lunch on a platform I know, and good in the House of Lords too. Still in the High Church, and clear; I University sermon in the afternoon, the High Church in the morning, low church in the afternoon; the Latin; go to Magdalen chapel, dropping in over the way at St. Clement's to hear Rev. Andrew Fudge perorate; good music at Magdalen; dinner in hall; college chapel—sermon by 'the Head' three Greek quotations. 'Lost my bet; and to bed.' This was the comprehensive programme of the Sunday occupation of the miserable sinner. There he stands in the wooden, my dear Mr. Editor, talking to Vacuus Pectus, of St. Andrew's (a cadet of the house of Pectopus, of Beaversdown, Wiltshire), about the ringlets of Zoe Spiridon, daughter of Alderman Spiridon, the retired post-coach. Zoe was a great beauty, carried a prayer-book with red ink lines on the margin and a cross on the cover; was so stired at, poor dear child! that she could scarcely attend to her devotion. A very pleasant "miserable sinner" was Zoe, and V. D. often boasted with profane force of language, that for going to church regularly, and during the *divine temps* to perfection, he would back Zoe against the field. Behind Miss Spiridon a few paces follow her three miserably sinning little sisters, dressed (to use Dayrell's favourite expression) "dressed" within an inch of their lives." Descending from the church door-step is Miss Particula Pronoun, eldest daughter of Dr. Pronoun, the Dean of St. Ironing College, the renowned translator of the Prolegomena of Aliquis Anastasius, the German editor of Plotinichius. Miss Pronoun is rather "unhappy," according to Pectopus. She never dances with any one but Doctors of Divinity, and speaks of curates and chaplains as "the inferior clergy." When she walks in Jericho Street, she is followed by a Titanic flunkey with the orthodox flunkeyistic calves. He is a "miserable sinner," responds audibly in church, and complacently compares his stipend with that of the curate.

Of the pensive and sorrow-stricken widow, whose weeds are on a level with Miss Pronoun's heaven-directed nose—(vide again our woodcut)—a sad, very sad story might be told, and the present autobiographer, though in those days a "miserable sinner" of the jovial school, could tell it now—if Christmas, merry pantomime Christmas, was fit time for tragic tales. She, perchance, alone of all that flock of self-confessed wandering sheep, felt the consolation of Divinity Merrey—roomed in memory from those crowded pews and psalm-resounding aisles, to happier days, and beloved ones departed, and her griefs were such as could dictate sincere contrition, and claim purest sympathy even from your then, Mr. Editor, "miserable sinner," and your now penitent and unpunctual correspondent,

V. D.

LORD WILLIAM GERRARD, a supporter of the present Government, is a candidate for the county of Hereford, vacant by the death of Mr. Blackmore.

DISASTERS AT SEA.—The Stirling-shire, while on a voyage from Connaught to London, was lately wrecked on the shores of the Baltic, and the captain and crew (ten in number) all perished.—The English barque Jeanne Johnston, become water-logged while on her voyage home from Quebec, with a cargo of timber. She had on board the captain, his wife and child, and the crew, twelve in number, who were exposed for nine days in the main-top, exposed to piercing winds and hail-storms, without a drop of water save what came from the clouds. They were at length rescued by the Dutch brig Sophie Elizabeth, and taken to New York. The French barque Bonis-Amble, from Bordeaux, went on shore on Sunday, (during a heavy gale of wind from S.S.E.) at the north end of the town of Newcastle, Dumfriesshire. The lifeboat of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, stationed at Newcastle, was immediately launched; and soon brought her crew of five hands on shore, who, without the lifeboat's timely assistance, would all probably have perished.

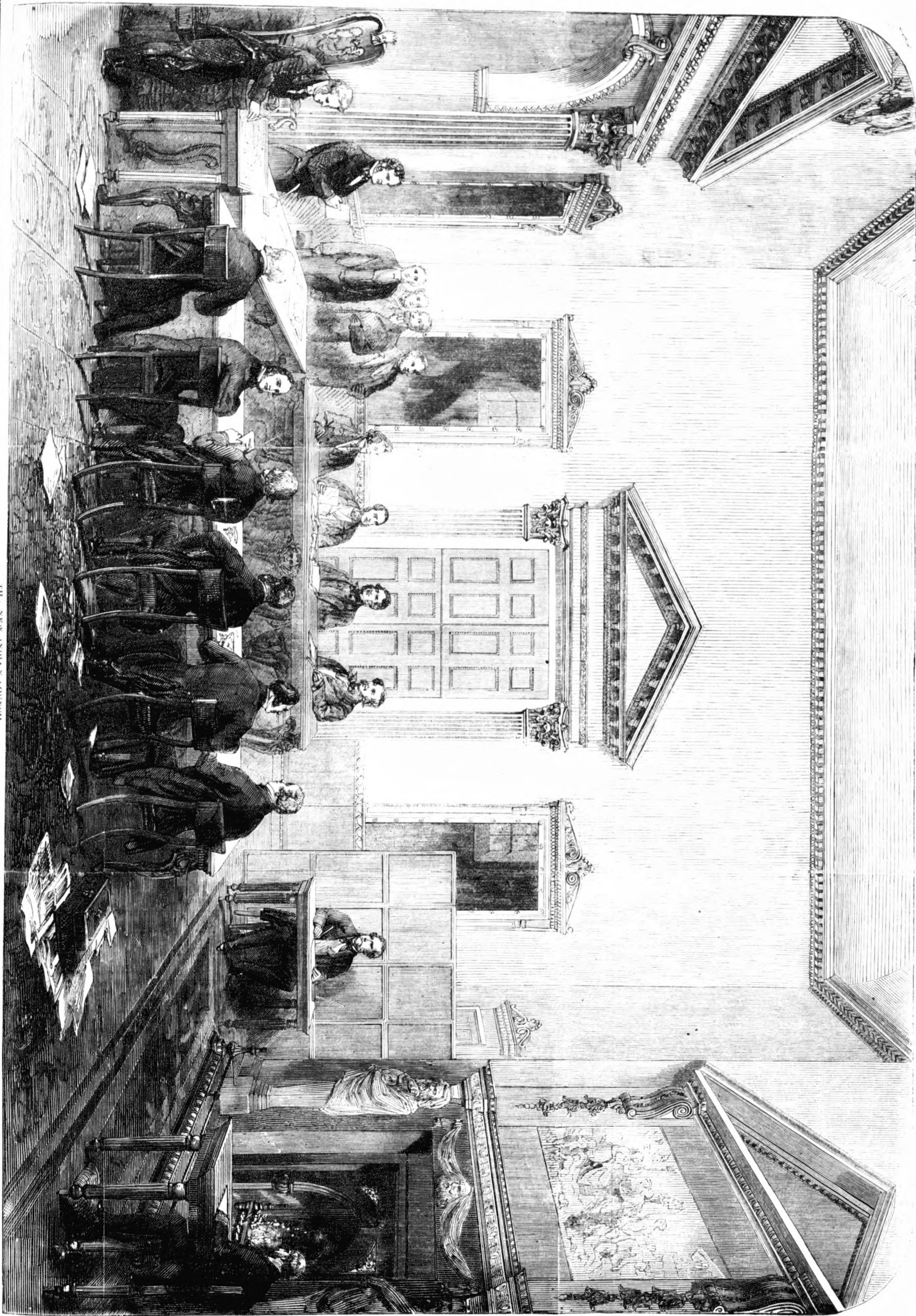
VESEVUS'S TALKING.—The sides of Vesuvius are cracking in all directions, and the lower part of the cone is pierced with small cracks in continual eruption. If this state of affairs continues, it is possible that the great cone, formed by the accumulation of lava vomited forth by the volcano, may fall to pieces some night or other, and the result would be terrible, not for Naples, lying remotely at a respectable distance, but for Resina and Portici, which are at the foot of this formidable neighbour. It would be strange to see Vesuvius again overwhelm the towns which have been built on the rubbish which buried Herculaneum.

LORD BROUGHAM ON THE LAW OF DIVORCE.—At a meeting of the Law Association Society on Monday, a letter was read from Lord Brougham on a defect which he considers exist in the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Court. His Lordship alleges that no provision has been made in the act for the detection of conspiracy or collusion between the husband and wife, and he appears to think that the only chance of protection to the court is to make the Attorney-General, or his representative, a party to all divorce cases.

MR. SPURGEON'S NEW CHURCH.—The subscription for Mr. Spurgeon's new chapel, having reached a sufficient sum, designs for a new tabernacle are advertised for. The premiums are £20, £20, and £20. The conditions provide that the drawings shall show a plan of each floor and gallery—be grained and true to scale—show elevations, drawn to a scale of one foot to one inch, and fitted in light brown Indian ink. The building to contain on basement floor, which is to be five feet below the level of footway, school-rooms, twelve at least, for boys and girls, and lecture-hall to seat 800 persons. The chapel proper to seat 300 persons, and singing-room for not less than 1,000, and with not more than two tiers of galleries; each sitting to be not less than two feet six inches by one foot six inches. Gothic designs will not be accepted by the committee. The plan of the Survey Music Hall has proved to be acoustically good, and will be decidedly preferred. Provision to be made for baptistry, six vestries, &c. The total cost, including architect's commission, warming, ventilation, lighting, boundary-walls, fences, paths, fittings, and every expense, to be about £16,000.



"MIS RABLE SINNERS," CHRISTCHURCH OXFORD



THE NEW INDIAN COUNCIL.

THE NEW INDIAN COUNCIL.

When the Government of India was changed, Lord Stanley, President of the new Council, resolved that the Queen's business should be carried on in the Company's old house, Leadenhall Street. The Council Chamber is situated on the western side of the main entrance to the building, and, as our readers may perceive from the illustration on the preceding page, is a very handsome and commodious room. It is extremely lofty, thirty feet broad, and thirty feet long. Three windows display the rich gilding with which it is ornamented, and the light is reflected by several large looking-glasses. Pictures hang from the walls, and a fine piece of sculpture stands over the fireplace. The former represent the three Presidencies, St. Helena, the Cape, and Tillycherry; the latter is an emblematic work, exhibiting the relations of Great Britain with the world. Britannia, seated on a globe by the sea-shore, receives the homage of Asia, India, and Africa, who offer her their treasures; while bales of merchandise, ships, &c., strengthen the allegory, according to custom. The whole is supported by two carved figures of Brahmins.

Our sketch represents the first meeting of the new council in the chamber, when there were eleven members present. At this meeting the members were divided into committees. The department of Finance and Home and Public Works was intrusted to Mr. Arianout, Sir Prov. Cantley, Captain Shepherd, Mr. Charles Mills, and Mr. Maenaghten. The Political and Military affairs were assigned to Sir John Lawrence, Sir Henry Rawlinson, Sir Robert Vivian, Mr. Willeoughby, and Captain Eastwick. The committee for the supervision of Revenue, Judicial, and Legislative matters, is composed of Sir James Haug, Mr. Mangles, Sir Frederick Currie, Mr. Prinsep, and Sir Henry Montgomery. Sir Frederick Currie is vice-president of the council; the under-secretaries—who are duly installed at the India House—are Sir George Clerk and Mr. Henry Baillie, M.P.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

GOVERNMENT relays of carpenters and builders, working day and night, will, it is hoped, render it possible for Mr. Benjamin Webster to open to the public, on Boxing-night, one of the prettiest and most commodious theatres in London. The architect is Mr. Thomas H. Wyatt, of Great Russell Street, and the new building does the greatest credit to his taste. The theatre, as it stood, being bounded on the south and west by properties belonging to a variety of owners, which it was found impossible to procure, and on the north by the houses in Maiden Lane, devoted to the purposes of dressing-rooms, green-room, and properties, the only possible means of extension was to the east, on the site of some old houses, in Bullen Court, purchased by Mr. Webster after a large fire, which destroyed almost the whole of one side of this court. The length, therefore, from the back of the boxes to the back of the stage, remains the same as in the old theatre; but the total width has been increased to the extent of about two-thirds of the original width, and has admitted of a form of auditorium approaching to the semicircle, and bringing the largest number of persons within the least distance from the centre of the proscenium. In the rebuilding and in the arrangement of the seats, the object has been to give the greatest space and comfort to the audience. The orchestra stalls, the balcony or dress circle stalls, and the upper boxes, are all divided with arms, fitted with spring cushions, the space in each being ample. The pit seats and gallery stalls are also divided with arms, and have sloping backs. The roof is of wrought iron, and all the principal bearers of the floors are of the same material. The front of the dress circle will consist of a very handsome open iron railing, the front of the upper circle and of the gallery stalls will be formed of Bielefield's patent fibrous slab, as at the new Italian opera-house. Her Majesty's box is eleven feet high, with a frontage of thirteen feet, with a saloon attached. All the proscenium boxes have a small saloon or entrance lobby attached to them.

It is asserted by those who should be well informed, that the whole system of "private inquiry," as pursued by Mr. ex-Inspector Field and his assistants, is illegal; and that persons proved to be engaged in their key-hole listening and gimlet boring, could be indicted for conspiracy. I not know how this may be, but one may be almost certain that were you to catch Mr. Field, or one of his myrmidons, prying about your house, and were to beat him within an inch of his life, no jury would give him damages for the assault.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

HAYMARKET.

It is seldom that a skilled dramatist like Mr. Bayle Bernard halts midway in his career. The happy knack of pleasing his audience once acquired, each year's further acquaintance with the stage enables him more completely to master its requirements, and each effort is superior to the last. But Mr. Bernard's new piece is not only not an advance, it is an absolute retrogression! "The Tide of Time," his new comedy, is weak in plot, in dialogue, and in character, but it succeeded with the first night's audience, and was excellently received. I suspect, however, that it will not draw money—the great test of success; and Mr. Bernard, who can do so very much better if he chooses, had better get to work again as quickly as possible.

A BOOKSELLER'S DODGE.—A publisher in Massachusetts announces "A Story by Charles Lamb hitherto unpublished; to be followed by a selection of notes, all marked by his characteristic quaintness." The secret of this latter announcement seems to be, that Mr. Thomas Allison, who had lately fled to the United States, sold there some not very important papers of his old friend; and they are now thrown into the book-market with the above flourish of trumpets.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments in the Diplomatic service are announced:—Lord Napier, at present Minister at Washington, to succeed Lord Abercromby as Minister at the Hague. Lord Lyons, at present Minister at Florence, to succeed Lord Napier as Minister at Washington. The Hon. P. C. Scarlett, now Minister at Rio Janeiro, to be Minister at Florence. The Hon. F. R. Forbes, from Dresden, to be Minister at Rio. Mr. L. Augustus Paget, Secretary of Legation at Berlin, to be Minister at Dresden.

EAST INDIA HOUSE APPOINTMENTS.—A circular has been issued by Lord Stanley, stating that, there being vacancies in the establishment of the Secretary of State for India for eight writers, he has resolved to fill these vacancies by means of an open competitive examination. The salaries and allowances attached to the appointments are as follow:—For the first five years—Salary, £80 per annum, with an additional allowance of 1s. per sheet of 480 words for all work in excess of five sheets per day. From 5 to 10 years' service, £90 per annum; from 10 to 15, £100; from 15 to 20, £120; from 20 to 25, £150; from 25 upwards, £200—with an allowance of 1s. 3d. per sheet as above. The writers are for the most part employed in copying, but they are at other times employed in accounts and in assisting in the ordinary duties of clerks. The age for admission is from 16 to 26.

EXHIBITION OF 1861.—The Council of the Society of Arts has taken the first step towards the realisation of the projected exhibition of 1861. At a special meeting they have resolved, that decennial exhibitions would tend greatly to the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce:—"That the first of these exhibitions ought not to be a repetition of the Exhibition of 1851, which must be considered an exceptional event, but should be an exhibition of works selected for excellence, illustrating especially the progress of industry and art, and arranged according to classes, and not countries, and that it should comprehend music and also painting, which were excluded in 1851. That foreigners should be invited to exhibit on the same conditions as British exhibitors. That the Council will proceed to consider how the foregoing resolutions can be best carried into effect."

REPORTING BY TELEGRAPH.—The first portion of the "Times" report of the Bright banquet was received at the telegraph-office at Manchester at 10.55 on Friday night, and the last at 1.25 on Saturday morning. The whole report, occupying nearly six columns, was in type at a quarter to 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, every word having been transmitted through the wire a distance of nearly 200 miles. The report was transmitted entirely by young girls. The highest speed on the needles was 39 words per minute. Four printing instruments and one needle were engaged, with one receiving clerk each, and two writers taking alternate sheets. Although young girls in general do not understand much of politics, there was hardly an error in the whole report.

Literature.

Erie, or Little by Little. A Tale of Roslyn School. By J. W. FARRAR. A. and C. Black.

ONE of our literary and lecturing members of Parliament told his audience the other day of a conversation with M. Guizot on the subject of English as compared with French literature. "We can equal you in science, we can equal you in history, we can equal you in poetry," the French statesman and historian is reported to have said (nearly enough as regards poetry), "but we have nothing in our literature that corresponds to your domestic novel," and M. Guizot then mentioned the "Hoc of Balclutha" as the type of a class of works quite peculiar to England. There are some other divisions of the novel or tale which belong to our own country alone; and, among these, one that will occur readily to all who are acquainted with the two literatures, is the novel of school-boy life. We know, to our cost—that children are sometimes introduced in French stories; and how strikingly unlike children they all are!—with the exception of the nice little boys and girls one sometimes meets with in the French nursery tales. But the life of the school-boy has never had its exponent in France, whereas in England we not only have several well-known tales in which the interest is derived from that source alone, but a large portion of those of our novels which profess to deal with the life of a man begin with an account of the hero's experiences at school. There are several reasons why these fictions of boy life should not be known in France. "Il n'y a plus d'enfants" was first said in Molière's time, and we believe the saying to be much truer now than it was then. The French will speak of a boy as a *petit jeune homme*, and their boys are indeed for the most *de petits jeunes hommes*, as their carefully-dressed, well-behaved little girls are *de petites dames*. In the present day, moreover, there are few good schools in France where boarders are received; and at the various colleges established in all the important provincial towns, and which together compose the French university, the pupils only receive instruction for so many hours a day, and reside either with their parents, or (in some rare instances) with one of the professors. Strangely enough, the French, usually so unromantic, seem in the matter of their children's education, to set more value on the influence of family and home than the English. The undesirability of removing children altogether from the control of their parents has also been formally recognised within the last eighteen months by the Emperor Alexander, who has not only abolished the purely military plan of instruction in the Government cadet schools, but has forbidden the admission of children, otherwise than as day scholars, until they have attained their fourteenth year except in cases of orphanage. There is a great deal to be said in favour of the French system, and a great deal against it; for instance, if education be a special science, it may be argued that those who have studied it, and been chosen to practice it on account of their known fitness, will understand the intellectual and moral nature of a child better than those whose sole qualification for giving instruction consists in being that child's parents. On the other hand, it may be said that masters cannot be expected to care for the welfare of their pupils so much as the pupils' own fathers and mothers; and that even if such were the case, they would necessarily be unable to exercise the same supervision over them. A boy at a public school only passes a few weeks out of the year with his family, during which period—being at home "for the holidays"—he does pretty much as he likes; and if he has really acquired any bad habits, not to say vices, he will probably possess sufficient talents of dissimulation to conceal them during the short period of the vacation. In the work before us, *Erie* and his friend Wilbury are sentenced to expulsion, and we feel, with the boys themselves, what a terrible and unexpected blow this will be to their parents, who little know that their sons are in the habit of getting drunk in the "studies" of the school, or at a low public-house in the neighbourhood, and of performing various other discreditable feats, which to boys sleeping under the paternal roof would be next to impossible. "Little by little" *Erie* gets worse and worse in this book, in spite of a naturally good disposition, until at last his relatives are suddenly informed that he is a thief, and that he has fled from the school in disgrace. Nearly the whole school has been corrupted by the influence of an infamous boy, named Brigson. If *Erie* had been living at home, his family would not have allowed him to associate with such an evident scoundrel. It is true that living at home he would not have gained so much "experience" of the character of others, or of his own, which is one of the great advantages (according to Mr. Farrar) to be derived from education at a public school; nor would he perhaps have had the advantage of dying in a state of penitence at the age of sixteen, which, however, we do not take to be the precise object for which boys are sent into the world.

Besides, if it be a good thing, as Mr. Farrar believes it to be, that a little boy like *Erie's* younger brother should go to a public school where such reprobates as Barker and Brigson are to be found, a mother becomes a useless sort of personage, as far as her male children are concerned, very soon after she has weaned them; while the father is only of a little more importance in connection with them, because it is he who has to pay their school bills. *Erie*, the hero of Mr. Farrar's story, has himself doubts as to the advisability of bringing his young brother among persons and scenes which he feels have not been altogether injurious to himself; but having communicated with one of the masters on the subject, he receives in reply the following letter, in which the views expressed may, we think, be taken as those entertained by the author himself:—

"You mean, no doubt, that, from your own experience, that you fear Vernon will hear at school many things which will shock his modesty, and much language which is evil and blasphemous; you fear that he will meet with many bad examples, and learn to look on God and godliness in a way far different from that to which he has been accustomed at home. You fear, in short, that he must pass through the same painful temptations to which you have yourself been subjected, to which, perhaps, you have even succumbed."

"Well, *Erie*, this is all true. Yet, knowing this, I say, by all means let Vernon come to Roslyn. The innocence of mere ignorance is a poor thing; it cannot, under the circumstances, be permanent, nor is it all valuable as a foundation of character. The true preparation for life, the true basis of a manly character, is not to have been ignorant of evil, but to have known it and avoided it; not to have been sheltered from temptation, but to have passed through it and to overcome it by God's help. Many have drawn exaggerated pictures of the lowliness of public school morality; the best answer is to point to the good and splendid men that have been trained in public schools, and who lose no opportunity of returning to them with affection."

That the innocence of mere ignorance is "a poor thing" is undoubtedly true, and it is certainly a proof of "character" to have passed through temptation, and to have overcome it. But what if, as in the case of *Erie*—a boy with qualities far above the average—the temptation be not overcome? Marivaux, in one of his comedies, says that to test a woman's virtue in an unreasonable manner, is like dashing a glass to the ground to see whether it will break; perhaps it will not break, but it is unwise to make such experiments, because glass is fragile, and human nature is weak. So it would be well not to lead boys into that temptation from which they are taught to pray that they may be delivered. If there are sure to be corrupting influences at large public schools, through which the best boys will pass uninjured, and even fortified, while the weak will probably succumb to them, it can only be said that a large number of boys are sacrificed, in order that a few may obtain an experience which is "valuable as a foundation of character." As all the best schools in England are public schools, it is not surprising that a number of "good and splendid men" should have been trained in them; nor would any one think of backing private schools against them. What we are discussing is whether—the intellectual education being the same in either case—it is more desirable that boys should prepare their lessons and pass their leisure hours at home, under the care and guidance of their parents, or at the house of some "dame" or master, or at the school-house itself. A good deal of character may be formed at such a place as Roslyn, but we fancy that a good deal must also be destroyed; and certainly the incidents in Mr. Farrar's book prove more against the system than his words say in favour of it. "And

to the best of my belief," the author tells us in his preface, "the things here dealt with are not theories, but realities; not imaginations, but facts." It is true that several of the Roslyn boys end very well, and the author has only to thank himself that he did not make them end still better. One of them goes to the bar, where he appears to be in a fair way to succeed; another is elected to a fellowship, and then more enter the army, of which they become distinguished ornaments; but all this might have happened to them if they had lived at home, and they could still have had their cricket-club, besides a rowing-club, which the Roslyn boys never seem to have managed; in fact, they were not allowed to go out on the water at all unless accompanied by an experienced sailor. If it is an advantage not to have a father or a mother, then it is certainly an excellent thing for a boy to be sent to a public school far away from his home; but it seems to us that no efficient substitute has yet been invented for those natural tutors and guardians.

"*Erie*," then, is a story of a public school where the boys reside, and, in spite of much direct writing in favour of schools of this kind, it shows very plainly that terrible evils may be caused by the separation of the boys from those relatives who would sympathise with them, understand them, advise them, warn them, and, if necessary, discipline them in time.

We must now add, that a better book about boys has never been written. It is full of characteristic scenes of school life; and, as it is said of some authors, that their personages are living men, so of Mr. Farrar's it may be said, that his are real living boys. In the first part of the book, when all is going well with *Erie*, there is an account of a school trial, with the first class for a tribunal, which interests us deeply as the trial of some personal friend might do, and there is a gentleness and dignity in the tone of the whole work, and an emotion and pathos in some portions of it, that must render it a favourite volume both with the old and the young. The death of *Erie's* friend Edwin, of his brother, and finally of *Erie* himself, are told very tenderly; and the description of Vernon, Edwin's little brother, lying on the sand, "while the tide rolled in calmly and quietly in the evening, radiant with the diamond and gold of reflected sunlight, and transparent wave," is extremely beautiful. "Gradually and gently," to continue this passage, "it crept up to the place where Vernon lay, and the little ripples fell over him wonderingly with the low murmuring, their musical laughter, and blurred and dimmed the vivid splash, and crimson streaks upon the white stone on which his head had fallen, and washed away some of the purple bells and green sprigs of heather round which his fingers were closed in the grasp of death, and played softly with his fair hair as it rose and fell and floated in their undulations like a leaf of golden-coloured weed until they themselves were faintly discoloured by his blood. And then, tired with this new plaything, they passed on until the swelling of the water was just strong enough to move rudely the boy's light weight, and, in a few moments more would have tossed it up and down with every careless wave among the boulders of the glen. And then it was," &c.

There are those death scenes in "*Erie*," but there is nothing funereal about either of them; and really, in a literary point of view, it is not death itself so much as the black undertaker and his melancholy trappings that we object to. We have marked several pages in Mr. Farrar's book from which we intended to quote, but find that we have only room for one more extract. Before going to Roslyn, *Erie* lived with his aunt and cousin, who "called themselves by no sectarian name, nor could they have told to what party they belonged. They troubled themselves with no theories of education, but mingled gentle nature with 'wholesome neglect.' There was nothing exotic or constrained in the growth of *Erie's* character. He was not one of your angelically-good children at all, and knew none of the phrases of which infant prodigies are supposed to be so fond. He had not been taught any distinction between 'Sunday' books and 'week-day' books, but no book had been put in his way that was not healthy and genuine in tone. . . . But, to be truthful, to be honest, to be kind, to be brave, these had been taught him, and he never quite forgot the lesson; nor, amid the sorrows of after-life did he ever quite lose the sense, learnt at dear old Fairholm, of a present loving God, of a tender and long-suffering Father."

How unfortunate for *Erie* that he did not see more of his aunt and cousin, and less of Barker, Brigson, and the low tavern at which a large number of the Roslyn boys were in the habit of getting intoxicated!

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

UNDER the title of GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, Messrs. Black have published an edition for boys of the "Voyage to Lilliput," preceded by the original introduction, and followed by a brief but full memoir of the author, abridged from Scott's admirable "Life." It is a well-known fact, that although "Gulliver's Travels" has the reputation of being a favourite book with children, the "Voyage to Lilliput" and the "Voyage to Brobdingnag," are, as a general rule, the only portions of the volume which they care to read. "Notwithstanding the obvious intention of the author to ridicule ambition, false politics, and the general follies of nations and individuals," we read in the "Life" that when the work was first published, "the vulgar, who seldom enter very heartily into the nature of satire, took it up as a book of travels." Children resemble "the vulgar," in their inability to appreciate satire, and even if they do not regard Gulliver as a genuine traveller, what they principally admire in the book is the fancy and ingenuity of the narrative. They are amused to hear of a cock plucking a lark which was not so big as a common fly; of a young girl threading an invisible needle, with invisible silk; of the tallest Lilliputian tree, in the royal park, of which Gulliver could just reach the top, with his fist clinched; and of his Lilliputian Majesty's full-length portrait, which Gulliver stowed away in his glove. The "Voyage to Brobdingnag," has never been so popular as that to Lilliput; partly because it is never read until after the Lilliputian tour, and partly also because few of the incidents of the second marvellous journey are equal to those of the first. The "Voyage to Laputa," and the "Voyage among the Houyhnhnms," have scarcely any attractions for children—though it is as well to remember that they were never written for them. By-the-by, while we are speaking of the Houyhnhnms, we cannot help mentioning an extraordinary view that has been taken of that work by some French writers. In writing the Houyhnhnms, say our Gallic friends, Swift intended to satirise the exaggerated love of his countrymen for horses!

The same publishers have also just issued a new edition of BARON MUNCHAUSEN, which is to "Gulliver" what burlesque is to satire. The little volume is illustrated, and the artist in his designs has shown the same love of truth which characterises the distinguished author. It will be remembered that the baron, in the course of his journeyings, once met, at the same time, a lion and a crocodile, and that, expecting every moment to be devoured, he fell to the ground; upon which the lion, who had just taken his spring, found himself suddenly with his head in the crocodile's mouth. The voracious author goes on to inform us that at the Amsterdam museum, where the skin of the crocodile was exhibited, the custodian used to be in the habit of narrating the story of the animal's death with variations, "of which some were rather extravagant." He was in the habit of stating, for instance, that the lion jumped quite through the crocodile, and was actually making his escape on the other side, when, as soon as his head appeared, Monsieur the great baron cut it off, and three feet of the crocodile's tail along with it. The artist does not attempt to insinuate that the lion did more than jam its head down the alligator's throat. The horse hanging by his bridle from the steeple of the Russian church, after the night's thaw has melted the snow in which the village was buried, is also represented with praiseworthy fidelity. Nor is there the least exaggeration in the picture of the stag with the cherry-tree growing between his antlers. The animal had been shot with cherry-stones, and the kernels had naturally taken root in his head, and had gradually become developed into a tree. The stag is shown to us just as he appeared to the baron himself—the happy baron, who "with one shot obtained venison and cherry sauce."

What are we to say of MUNGO PARK AND HIS TRAVELS? Simply

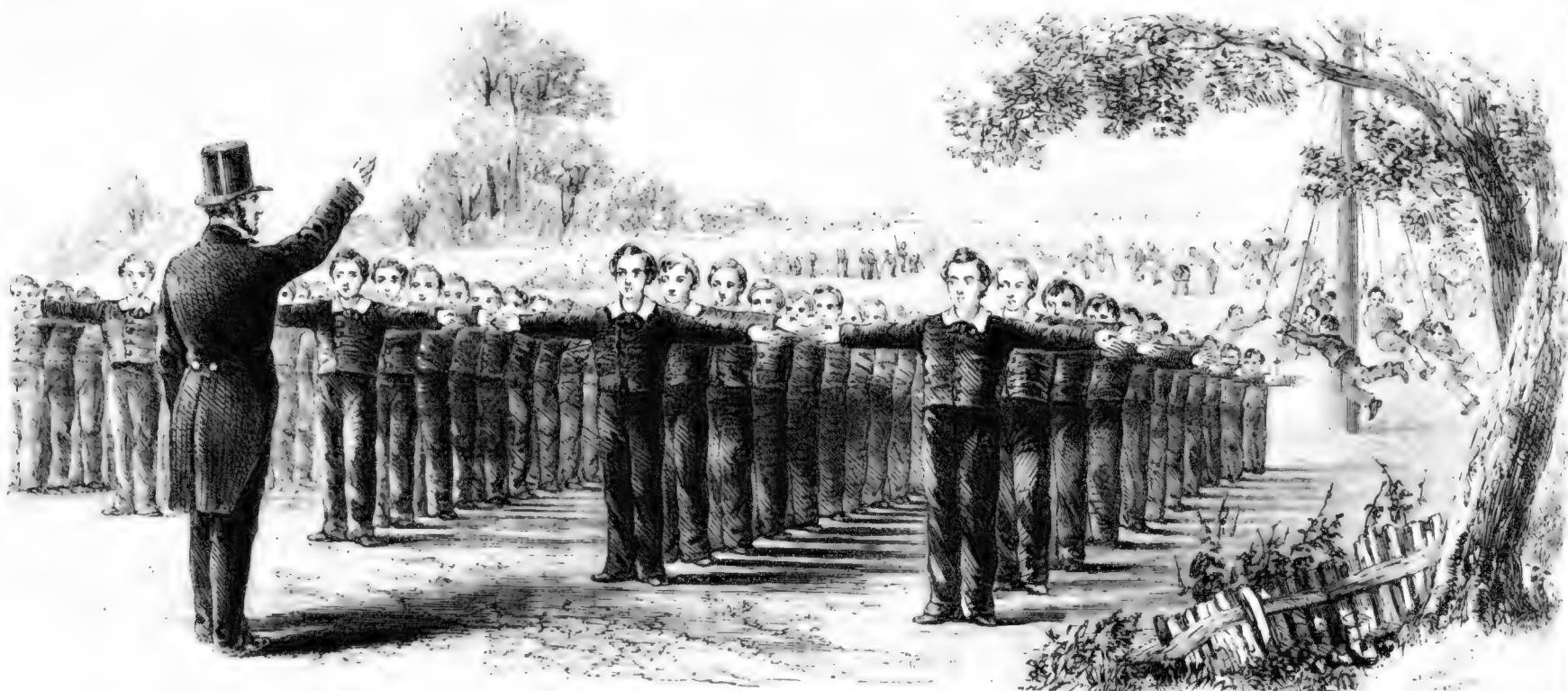
ulated liquors all things are possible. The first part of this proposition is self-evident, and the second is not true. Nevertheless, all that must be given to an author who advocates the substitution of drinking-clubs for public-houses, and who attempts to show how the

Arguing from the enormous number of mugs and plates I saw arranged on the table in the refecton-rooms, and from the inherent disposition of children to breakage, the contractor for crockery to the asylum must

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.—Lord Carnarvon, at the Fishmongers' dinner spoke of the Ionian Islands. He said the Government never had the least intention of acting upon Sir John Young's despatch, and expressed regret that it had been made public. The broad and safe policy of dealing in a straightforward manner with all people, he added, was applicable to the Greeks as well as to others, and that was the policy of the Government.



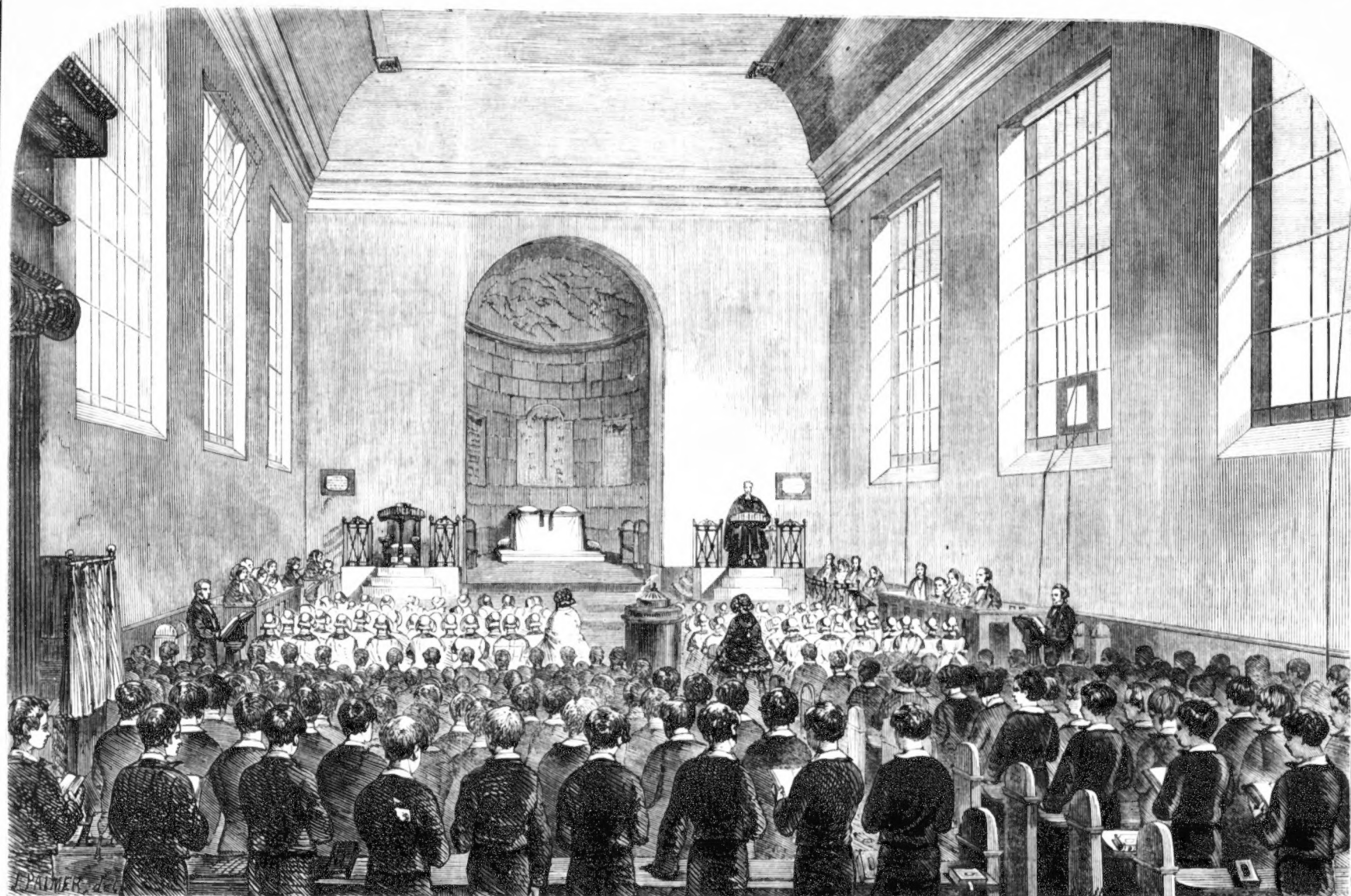
THE LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM.



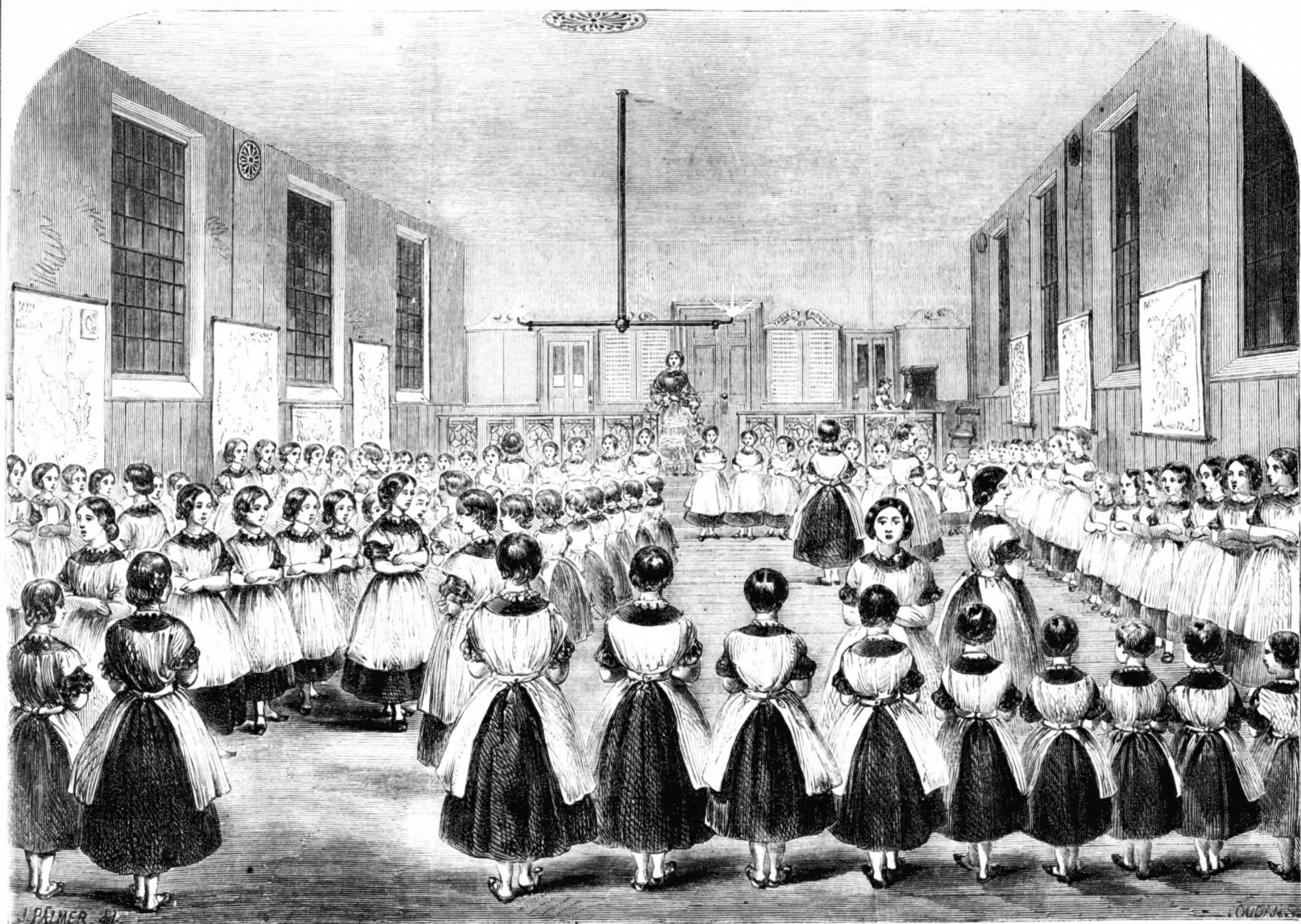
THE BOYS' GYMNASIUM.



GIRLS EXERCISING.



INTERIOR OF CHAPEL DURING DIVINE SERVICE.



GIRLS' SCHOOL: SINGING THE EVENING HYMN.

under, and Fire-iron Manufactory, Furnishing Ironmongers and Electro Silver Plate Show Rooms, 56, Baker Street and the Great Bazaar.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 17 DECEMBER 10, 1999.